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29 January 1980

# Sub-Saharan Africa Report

No. 2206



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JUBILATION AT REOPENING OF RHODESIA-MOZAMBIQUE BORDER

Paris LE MONDE in French 16 Jan 80 p 7

[Article by Christiane Chombeau: "Short-Lived Jubilation on the Mozambican Border"]

[Text] Machipanda (Mozambique)--A breeze of euphoria blew for a brief moment last Saturday over the customs control posts in Forbes (Rhodesia) and Machipanda (Mozambique), when the border, closed for nearly 4 years, finally reopened. A black Rhodesian policeman and a Mozambican soldier fell into each other's arms, laughing and gesticulating. Nearby, a group of Mozambican men and women surrounded a white Rhodesian soldier, merrily chatting away. They had known him long ago...during Portuguese colonial times. He used to own a supermarket near Machipanda.

A long wait had not discouraged newsmen or hundreds of curious observers; the border reopened with a 3-hour delay, following a long series of hesitations and quid-pro-quos.

Mozambique must have thought this a historical event, and the governor of Manica Province had arrived in person. He left when he found out that the other side simply considered this a return to the status quo of 4 years ago. A Mozambican political commissioner, Major Henrique Madebe, accompanied by about 20 people and carrying a white flag, came out several times to find out where things stood. Dignified and solemn in his impeccable green uniform, he was attempting to understand why Rhodesia was refusing to go through the ceremonial.

Finally, half an hour before noon, a Mozambican soldier rolled up the tall fence in the middle of no man's land between the two border posts. This was a signal for the fun to start. Men, women and children who had patiently waited in Machipanda, began to sing and dance. There were lots of handshakes and a white Rhodesian made himself very popular by distributing Rhodesian cigarettes.

The Mozambican customs people offered a conducted tour of their premises to their Rhodesian colleagues. The jubilant, shouting crowd surged toward Forbes. Half-frightened by this audacity--and at the same time amused--Samora Machel's men tried to catch up with them. Unwillingly, they found themselves on their neighbors' territory, weapons still in hand.

Having finally relaxed, the Forbes customs agents opened a bottle of local sparkling wine. On the roof of the border post, behind sandbags, the army was keeping an eye on the proceedings, while the representative of the Commonwealth force continued to survey the horizon through field glasses. A team of workers intent on removing mines from the railroad tracks about a hundreds meters farther away had not stopped to watch.

This wind of freedom only blew for less than a half-hour. At noon, the border was closed again--on Rhodesian initiative--to reopen only on Monday morning. Regretfully, the newsmen gave up their expectations for the seafood meal--the giant shrimp Rhodesians who used to vacation in Mozambique in bygone years are still dreaming about--that the Mozambican officials had organized for them in Beira.

CSO: 4400



PRESENCE OF FRENCH FORCES AT CENTRAL BANK CAUSES PANIC

Ndjamena INFO TCHAD in French 17 Dec 79 pp 1, 2

[Article from CHADIAN PRESS AGENCY: "Saturday Morning Unrest in Ndjamena"]

[Text] The capital's administrative and business district was in a state of perturbation last Saturday morning. The panic created by war engines approaching the Central Bank which armed French soldiers perched on vehicles were then to enter, caused civil servants to flee their offices, merchants to roll down their shop blinds, and students to desert their classrooms. What happened? Blown out of proportion and distorted, the news spread like wildfire through the town. Panic broke the tranquillity of the people who had taken to the streets in great number to satisfy their genuine or ill-willed curiosity.

Toward the end of the morning, things were calming down. A communique was read on the radio by the state minister for internal affairs and cut short all alarmist rumors.

Here is the text of this communique:

"I am asking the people to remain calm. This morning's deployment of forces is the result of a lack of coordination between the various armed forces. In fact, the Council of Ministers had decided in principle to finance cotton purchases in the southern zone, and this operation required a transfer of funds from the Ndjamena Central Bank. The state minister in charge of defense had indicated to the French authorities his agreement to have these funds transferred. This operation, which was perfectly in order from the point of view of the Ministry of Finances, resulted in such a deployment of forces that the military police, who had not been informed of the transfer, had to react to the operation.

This is why fighting forces took position around and in front of the Central Bank; but everything is in order now after clarification by the various authorities.

Therefore, I am asking my brothers in the contending forces to consider this incident as closed, while thanking them for their vigilance. I am also asking once more the people of Ndjamena to remain calm and peaceful, and I am more especially requesting all civil servants and workers to go back to work as usual.

FACP PARTICIPANTS CONSOLIDATE TO FORM FAC

Ndjamena INFO TCHAD in French 14 Dec 79 p 1

[Article from CHADIAN PRESS AGENCY: "FACP Becomes FAC. Joint Communique"]

[Text] Members of the Provisional Front for Joint Action (FACP) have held several meetings during the past few weeks.

Participants at the 11 December 1979 meeting have considered the present political situation of the FACP and what its future objectives should be.

Were present representatives of:

- the People's Liberation Forces (FPL);
- the Volcano;
- The Revolutionary Democratic Council (CDR).

In view of the highest interests of the Chadian nation; and

Considering the highly critical situation of the country;

Considering that a union of all tendencies is the only way to save the country;

After considering the defection of some of the FACP's allies, the members of the FACP have, after due consideration, taken a number of measures to consolidate their political and military union. These measures are as follows:

1. In order to consolidate their movement, the participants have changed its name from "FACP" by removing the word "provisional." From now on, the movement will be called FAC, thus gaining the character of a permanent organization.
2. The participants have considered the creation of an executive organ for the FAC, to be called Bureau for the Coordination of the Revolution, or BCR.

3. The participants have agreed on the principle of a fusion of all tendencies within the FAC, to take place during a convention to be held in the near future.

4. They have agreed on the steps to be taken to achieve FROLINAT unity in order to safeguard the gains of the revolution and to establish durable peace and concord in Chad.

Long Live the people's unity!

El-Hadj Mahamat Abba Seid  
FAC President

9294

CSO: 4400

PRECARIOUS STATE OF MAYOTTE DESCRIBED

Paris LE MONDE in French 29, 30-31 Dec 79

[Article by Hubert Bruyere: "Fragile and Fearful Mayotte"]

[29 Dec 79 p 1, 8]

[Text] At a time when Parliament has just decided to extend the current status of Mayotte Island, a territorial community created by the 24 December 1976 law, our Reunion correspondent went to the spot to see how the inhabitants live and to understand their problems and aspirations better.

L. The Agricultural Harvest

Dzaoudzi--In the shelter of its lagoon, in the shade of its coconut palms, a tiny point of land between the African continent and Madagascar, an island without a port, Mayotte, lethargic, has let the centuries go by.

Here, nature has never lacked generosity. Coconuts and mango pits, like the pebbles that might have been left behind by a tropical Tom Thumb, are strewn over every path. To be nourished, it is enough to gather: bananas, breadfruit, litchis, loquats, etc. Cassava, rice accompanied by fish, are the basic food. The farmers scratch the surface of the soil with the ends of blades extending about 30 centimeters from their shafts. Men and women, bent double, entrust to nature's care several grains of rice, on tiny cleared parcels in the forest. Ethnologists talk about "preneolithic" society. The wheel has yet to be invented and animal traction will be the next revolution.

Although malnutrition is unknown on the island and one does not meet troops of children with spindly extremities and distended abdomens, the population suffers nevertheless from serious dietary imbalances. Beef, goat and mutton are saved for holidays. They also serve as "piggy banks" to meet big expenses, for instance the purchase of a plot of land for three steers. The barter system is still widespread.

The medical situation is worrisome; nearly all of the 43,000 Mahorese suffer from malaria, 28 percent are carrying guinea-worms. There are still 300 lepers. Few are the children who escape intestinal parasites. Two out of three births occur in the bush, under very precarious conditions of hygiene.

In 1976 there were only three physicians on the island; today there is not even a surgeon. Early intervention is provided by a volunteer intern whose title is technical aide. For evacuations because of health, Reunion is four hours away by plane. In the bush, the village nurses have three bottles as their entire armory: one for cod liver oil, another for Nivaquine, the third for cough medicine. In Boueni they hope to create a delivery room by next year, because in the rainy season the road is cut off and the sea impassable: "Then women die in labor."

In 1978 only 45 percent of the young people 6 to 11 years of age were able to go to school. Illiterates are, and have been for a long time, the most numerous. Moreover, nowhere in the former colonies has the French presence left so few traces. As if someone had wished to make the Mahorese a kind of "show people" and their island a tropical museum.

This inaction has made it possible to preserve a virtually virgin nature and social life. Today, paradoxically, this backwardness is lucky for Mayotte. Governmental and local projects are seeking to be ecological from every point of view. People are ambitious to put into practice a never-realized dream: to provide economic take-off without damaging the quality of life, to develop without disturbing and without introducing the imbalances that are the curse of many third world countries. It will be a rough task, because the young person who holds a BEPC (grammar-school diploma) considers himself one of the elite. He compares the salary and lifestyle of the technical aid volunteers to the minimum wage of 400 francs per month. He does not forget that a kilo of rice already costs 2.60 francs and the smallest motorbike 7,000 francs. Money, which is becoming increasingly indispensable--the amount of money in circulation has been multiplied by four in the last two years--, serves chiefly to reveal social inequities.

In 1975 the Mahorese did not follow Anjouan, Moheli and Grande Comore on the road to independence. Then, on 24 December 1976 the island was given the status of a "territorial community of the French Republic," which has just been extended for five years. The Mahorese are represented in Parliament by one senator and one deputy. The return of French administration dates from the implementation of this statute. The effort undertaken deals with three basic points that keep turning up, from one village to another: the road; the water; the school.

When the equipment services were installed on the island in 1976, they found 80 km of unmaintained trails and 40 km of roads that still bore some traces of tar. Many villages were completely enclosed. Today, only 4 out of 67 are still inaccessible by land, the canoe still being the customary means of transportation. Although the trails opened by bulldozers are passable in the dry season, they are transformed into muddy beds in the rainy season.



In a little village in the south, the father of a family shows us the empty rice granary, and explains that the rations have been reduced. The road is impassable and on the turbulent ocean the rice could not stay dry for long aboard canoes. Also, the objective is to make all the roads suitable for motor vehicles, regardless of atmospheric conditions, in 1981. Many of them are to be paved later, for even though few of the Mahorese can buy an automobile, the call for the automobile, and it is thought desirable to avoid diverting savings from more productive and more urgent investments. Already the number of local vehicles on the road is beating the world record for growth: it went from 50 vehicles in 1976 to 800 in 1979. One solution for containing this fleet would be to tidy up the bush taxis a little and organize the common transportation.

The well is a traditional meeting place and headquarters for discussion, but the water drawn from it is of doubtful quality. In every courtyard, the well is close to the latrines dug in the soil. A perfunctory water pipe and a few crossroads faucets have been installed. An immense purification job remains to be done. This should be a priority for the young communes that were created two years ago. Sewage collection is nonexistent.

In the two main settlements, Mamoudzou and Dzaoudzi, where one Mahorese out of three lives, a modern water supply system is in the process of being installed. As for electricity, it was turned on in the urban area for the first time in December 1977. Elsewhere the oil lamp reigns.

"They don't know enough here to make policy. How can they get out of that situation when the mayors and general council members are illiterate?" The young teacher who is managing with one book for every three pupils in a class of 40 children is aware that he is working in a key position for his island's future. The thirst for learning is great in Mayotte, but in this area, too, everything remains to be done. The children who learn French in grammar school do it with the difficulties inherent in learning a foreign language. Since the beginning of the year, "initiation" classes have been devoted exclusively to the acquisition of French. Difficulties for the young pupils, but also for the 236 Mahorese teachers recruited at the end of the third or fourth year, if not the fifth.

For this reason, the entrance examination to the sixth year has been maintained. About 25 percent of the candidates surmount this hurdle, after which one may try his luck at college up to age 16. To enter the sixth year is to leave the bush for the island's only college, located in Mamoudzou, where one may continue his studies to the lower sixth. Once arrived at BEPC level, young Mahorese are encouraged to become teachers, but most of them prefer to leave for Reunion, to prepare for a BEP [primary diploma] or a CAP [teaching aptitude certificate] in sections that for now do not offer outlets at Mayotte.

Every day about 20 requests for employment arrive at the prefect's office. For its economic future, Mayotte wants to play the agriculture first. Invariably, the young postulant is invited to register at the agricultural training center. The government representative, Jean Rigotard, does not hesitate to

cite Chairman Mao as an example. The objective is to attain food self-sufficiency. The ambition is not extravagant, for everything grows on the island, whose soil is rich and fertile. That is taken for granted, despite three small revolutions.

At the beginning of the rainy season the Mahorese set fire to a few acres on the island's wooded hills, clearing them and sowing a few kilos of mountain rice. This is the "scratching" season. Not only are the results inadequate, since 6,000 tons must be imported annually for a consumption of 8,000 tons, but this growing method seriously mortgages the future. Erosion is advancing with great strides. Every time it rains there are cubic meters of land that hurtle down the denuded slopes and go on to engorge the lagoon, where they enrich useless mangroves.

Technical monitors are attempting to convince the farmers to go and sow the rice on the plains and to plant parallel to the slope as soon as there is the slightest declivity. Over the years they plan to arrive at a total transfer of the crops. The fruit trees, which hold the land and which today grow beside the sea, would go back up to the heights, and the pluvial rice would be grown on the flatlands.

A few positive signs appeared after the radio appeals to intensify rice growing; local production increased by 900 tons from one year to the next.

New vegetables are being proposed for cultivation. They are intended primarily for consumption by the farmers. Marketing is in its early stages. The clientele, consisting of civil servants and legionnaires, guarantees sales for the time being. There are also attempts being made to organize cooperative activities.

while 700 hectares, out of the 24,000 available, are developed, there is not enough land on which to install the young people who are graduating from the training center. The present land system acts as a genuine brake. Sometimes the license system applies, sometimes common law. The administration intends to put into effect a tax system that would force the owners to develop their land. At the same time it is seeking to form land reserves in each village, looking ahead to future trading, since the most widespread property system.

Nearly 400 fishing craftsmen are grouped together in one cooperative. Some have acquired a motor for their pole-propelled canoes. It often happens that the fish reach the shore in stale condition. In an attempt to correct the situation the cooperative is going to propose isothermal tanks to the fishermen, and regulation of prices in terms of quality.

However, hopes are elsewhere. In 20 years, according to some fishermen, the catches will have diminished by 50 percent. There is a plan to exploit the resources of the Indian Ocean beyond the coral reefs, aboard small 12- to 15-meter boats, towing the canoes. Other fishermen say they want to push on all the way to the Glorioso Islands and the banks of the Geyser. Investors visited the island recently to study conditions for implanting a plant for processing

shrimp. However, the assessment of the first two years of the fishing school, which was closed for lack of results, encourages modesty on that score, despite the fact that it is to reopen soon. The objectives seem to exceed the present capabilities of the fishermen craftsmen, despite Mayotte's undeniable resources in this area.

To redress a profoundly adverse balance of trade, the island is counting on several export crops: pepper, vanilla, powdered copra or copra oil, ylang-ylang, the quality of which will have to improve if it is to sustain the competition from synthetic products on the world market.

In the search for a new equilibrium, Mayotte cannot remain for long an island without a harbor. In current practice the freighter that once a month supplies Mayotte with all kinds of products, is unloaded with the help of dhows and barges. This perpetuates a certain folklore, but it has nothing to do with economic efficiency.

The plans for a genuine harbor, to be located at Longoni, are waiting in the official cartons. The project represents an investment of 34,000,000 francs. These installations could serve as an explosion point for all the Comoros. Traffic, which was 2,000 tons for the whole archipelago in 1974, today reaches 25,000 tons for the Mayotte community alone, and present means make it impossible for it to exceed 30,000 tons. Regular air service has been provided since 1977. The airport makes it possible to face the needs. The extension of the runway to 300 meters by leveling a hill that currently governs the landing, will allow medium-haul airplanes to come in. Despite the equipment that is gradually being put in place, the tourist fleet will not happen tomorrow. The authorities, moreover, make no secret of their wish to preserve the island from too strong a collision with the outside world.

Stabilized for centuries in its way of life, the Mahorese society is preparing to leave its level of ancestral equilibrium, while hoping it will be able to find another level. While one may be pleased with the housing projects that are trying to appeal to craftsmen and inhabitants, it is permissible to wonder, on the other hand, about the invasion of every village that possesses a movie house by the latest stupidities on film, basically exalting gratuitous violence. The religious leaders are also worried about these disruptions, as well as by the appearance of alcoholism. An association that includes the island's 160 mosques is aimed at maintaining the Islamic tradition. Will Mayotte arrive at a new equilibrium in the space of one generation? Demographic predictions say that 2000 is the critical threshold after which the harvest economy will not suffer any longer. The Mahorese are beginning to have some personal ideas about their future. They are no longer unanimous on the means and solutions to be set up to develop their island, and they want it to be known. This awareness is not the least of the revolutions in progress.

[30-31 Dec p 4]

[Text] 2. The Beginnings of Protest

Dzaoudzi--A harvest civilization, cob and palm-leaf cabins, the Muslim religion and the practice of polygamy, malaria, illiteracy;

all of this separates the Mahorese from the West and from France (LE MONDE, 29 December).

Two obvious facts emerge: the Mahorese distrust like the plague the other three islands of the Comoro archipelago, and the very great majority of them proclaim to anyone who will listen that they are French citizens and will do anything to retain that citizenship. With its generosity and its extremely strategic location at the entrance to the Mozambique channel, Mayotte Island has continued to arouse envy throughout the centuries. Arab navigators appreciated the exceptional shelter offered by its lagoon, which is among the most beautiful and the largest in the world. The Malgasy regularly organized expeditions to its shores; the villages were encircled, they waited for the rice to grow, they sacked the houses and took some slaves. It was not surprising that the cousins from Anjouan, Moheli or Grande Comore had coveted a piece of the "cake" for themselves. This explains that kind of collective invasion neurosis that one feels very strongly on the island.

The Mahorese have always tried to keep aloof and free themselves from the supervision of the other islands each time the Comoros have formed a legal and political entity. Precedents are not lacking. As early as 1590, on the death of Sultan Mohamed ben Haissa, Mayotte detached itself from Anjouan by refusing to recognize the authority of the new Moina Alachora government. For four years there was between the two islands. In 1841 a treaty ceded Mayotte to France. Since then the Mahorese have demanded one thing above all in their home country--security. Here, an expression like "motherland" takes on one meaning--very maternal. They speak, as if it were a visit to hell, of the time when the archipelago was the beneficiary of an internal autonomy, with a government situated in Moroni. One question is still asked: have the Mahorese, who have earned for France the distinction of being hotly contested on the international scene, said no in the course of many elections to the principle of independence as such, or did they want to avoid being forever the beaten children of the Comorian family? It is still true that on 8 February 1976 the population declared itself 99.4 percent in favor of maintaining the island as part of the French body. In December of the same year Mayotte was given the status of "a territorial community of the Republic."

Today it is still easy to note the differences. A Mahorese civil servant explains to us that here one eats one's fill and that down there this is not the case, that the Mahorese are subject to Malgasy and French influence and the Comorians have been marked by the Arabs, that here the women are free and go around with their faces uncovered, while down there, on the contrary, they go out only a little, and wear the veil. In short, "we don't want any of those people, they are savages who only want to occupy our land cause disorder."

A party has sprung from all these sentiments: the Mahorese Popular Movement (MPM), which was created in 1958 and whose leaders are the centrist senator, Marcel Henry, the UDF [Union for the Defense of the Republic] deputy, Younoussa Bamana and Andre Giraud. It is a powerful organization, long in a situation of monopoly, whose watchwords are blindly followed by an electorate



all the more malleable in that it is illiterate and the structures of the Mahorese society encourage reacting as a single man, the essential characteristic for a leader being by definition that he is uncontested. The originality that is a mark of the MPM is that it makes a very large place for women. In every village there is a cell directed by a woman who is its delegate.

The movement has filled the hearts of the Mahorese with hope with one magic word: departmentalization. The members of Parliament from the island have made it their rallying flag and their objective. For where patriotism is concerned, the Mahorese recall that their island was French before Nice.

Families hear talk of social welfare granted to Reunion. Those who travel return with their heads full of images of tarred roads, buildings with futuristic charm and well-stocked stores. Unusual are those who can develop a few precise ideas on the content of departmentalization, but the word rings as at the opening of the gates of a paradise of prosperity and security. A leader of the Women's Movement comments, "To be a department is to have solid walls that will put the island in the shelter of the other races." In the MPM, therefore, departmentalization is a question of principle. Faced with the argument about the French presence in the tribunal of the UN or the OAU, the Mahorese elected representatives think this would be a final solution, cutting all commentary short. This is to forget that today, on the oil route, Mayotte is an ideal observation post. It is in its roads, the port of registry for the swift patrol boat "Epee," that the national navy vessels cruising the Indian Ocean put into port.

"The Mahorese have been awaiting the solution for 20 years," explains a general council member, who affirms that a true Mahorese will never accept being bound to the Comoros. "We will not change ideas. In giving us a temporary status, the government had two ideas in its head. They thought we would lose patience and smash everything. Then France would have found that an excuse to cast us off. They also thought that with time we would be reconciled with the neighboring islands. We will wait another 20 years if necessary, but we have to have departmentalization."

In the Mahorese affair, the policy of Paris is clear on a single point: the government, to be exact, does not want to give the island departmental status. And one has several phrases in one's memory in Mayotte, and one trembles. One remembers, for example, Louis de Guiringaud, then representing France in the UN, blaming Parliament for "having taken a decision in total contradiction with the principles posted and generally recognized by the United Nations," or calling the affair "ridiculous." One thinks of Paul Dijoud attempting to explain that it would be absurd for France to want to cut Mayotte off from the rest of the archipelago. This is why the coup d'etat which in the night of 12 and 13 May 1978 overthrew the Alih Soilih regime to put Ahmed Abdallah in place again, was perceived as a way of preparing the ground for reintegrating the island into the archipelago. Moreover, the prospects of a federal system and Moroni's advances were unequivocally repulsed. More than ever, the Mahorese elected representatives affirmed their desire to accede to departmental status.



It was also in May 1978 that Mayotte changed prefects. The elected representatives' suspicion of the intentions of the central government turned gradually, over a period of months, into frank hostility and chose the new arrival, Jean Rigotard, as a scapegoat. In August 1978, when he went to Mayotte for the first time, Paul Pijoud, secretary of State in Charge of Overseas Departments, spoke the language of prudence. He stressed the ponderosity of departmental administration, the danger of unbalanced lifestyles, the dangers of the welfare mentality. A real letdown. However, the secretary of State announced that a plan for developing Mayotte was to be put into operation.

The general council members would not take part in drawing it up after the first working session, they would leave with a crash on 2 October 1978. The prefecture had refused to include in the preamble the work of the Planning Commission, the hypothesis of a development within the departmental framework, arguing that it was technical work and that it was impossible for the administration to take a political initiative, as the elected representatives were demanding.

Nevertheless the work went on. Today it serves as a reference to the action for Mayotte's development, but although civil servants talk among themselves of the "plan," in the presence of the elected representatives they mention a "white paper," although they are the same document.

The context of the second clash was the founding of the Party for Democratic Rally of the Mahorese (PRDM), which was in favor of returning Mayotte to the Comorian body. To its general secretary, Ali Said, "There is no way to demonstrate that the Mahorese do not belong to the Comorian community. It is not a story of the veil for women that is going to separate us," he said. "As for departmentalization, that would mean the suppression of our culture."

Last 21 January the PRDM organized its first assembly. The prefect went in person to the gendarmerie of the locality to see that order was maintained. To the MPM the excuse was not valid; it was a matter of providing the administration's guarantee "to those who are nostalgic for territorial government" (directed by Ahmed Abdallah) and "destabilizing" the MPM. Another grievance: this small group was able to develop its theories, which were favorable to independence, on the waves of FR [expansion unknown] Mayotte. Three days later, the general council session, composed exclusively of MPM elected representatives, was a clearly turbulent one. Marcel Henry and Younoussa Banana clearly informed the prefect that in their eyes he had placed himself in the position of a political adversary and that they had decided to break off all relations with him except for the unavoidable council sessions. The members were to keep their word and the first "punishment" would consist of abolishing the prefect's representation credentials. Several weeks before the European elections, Mr Henry, in an interview with QUOTIDIEN DE LA REUNION (there is no written press in Mayotte), clearly made it known that voting instructions would be given in terms of "the prefect's problem" and that his partisans would if necessary take the view opposite to that of the governmental list. The boycott of the traditional political forces supported by the MPM was effective, and the list headed by Jacques Chirac received a total of 13,824 votes out of

13,149 votes cast on 10 June. The MPM leaders no longer concealed from the government representative the fact that his every act and gesture was scrupulously observed. Jean Rigotard swore to visitors, in that connection, that he preferred to communicate with Paris by Telex--a more discreet instrument than the telephone.

Today the resumption of dialog is imposed by the course of events and that test of strength has finally been of no use if not to demonstrate, if there were still any need to do so, that a handful of men is very influential electorally and that consequently it is permissible to wonder about the expression in the voting booths of the real feelings of the populations concerned.

While in August 1978 Mr Dijoud had let it be known, as he was authorized to do by the 24 December 1976 law, that the general council of the community would express its wishes on the island's status at the expiration of the temporary three-year period, the council was not consulted and several days before the December 6 debate in the National Assembly, two members of the Laws Commission (one RPR [Rally for the Republic] and one UDF) went there to explain once more the advantages and inconveniences of decentralization. The Senate in its turn having adopted the government's text extending the present status until 1985, the date of 25 December was thus reached without the local members being able to satisfy the hopes they had aroused in their constituents. Trapped in a way by this situation, they had no other solution but to find their way again to the prefecture--contacts had already taken place--and furnish some explanations to their troops; which would not be insurmountable. That step seemed all the more inevitable since, in addition to the PRDM, other political forces were appearing. There exists in Mayotte an antenna of the RPR, the Mahorese Rally for the Republic, whose existence, made official in January 1979, was stirred up by the arrival on the island of a former deputy from St. Pierre-et-Miquelon, Frederic Gabriel (RPR), in search of an electoral district on the eve of the 1978 legislative elections. His welcoming group was made up of several MPM members who were in favor of the election of a representative belonging to a great French political party. The contacts were maintained and intensified and today they are preparing for the presidential election; the cards of the rank and file bear the address of the RPR, rue de Lille, in Paris. From its beginning as a simple group, the RMPR (Mahorese Rally for the Republic) is a structured organization today.

For their part the Mahorese who have left Madagascar have formed their own organization, the Mahorese Democratic Union (UDM), following the struggles for influence within the MPM. The basic characteristic of these movements is the youth of their members. A whole age group does not take kindly to being led by illiterate mayors or represented by a council member incapable of speaking French. The critical spirit is making its appearance in a society whose structures have long been congealed. These young people are discovering, now with incredulity--"You can't say what you want to without getting beaten down"--, now with candor--"The father of democracy in Mayotte is Jean Rigotard"--that it is possible to have a personal vision of their island's future. Education and information, which are increasing with radio broadcasting accessible to everyone, and foreign trade are factors for change. Everything leads to the conclusion that the political will continue to be amplified during the next few

weeks. The MPM has some cracks in it. In Parliament, although several voices are being raised to affirm the island's French character, few among them, except for Mr Henry and Mr Bamana, have pleaded for immediate departmentalization. So many reasons, which have forced the government to believe that it is urgent to wait.

8946

CSO: 4400

PRIEST DISCUSSES WORK OF CHURCH, ATTITUDE OF PEOPLE

Madrid YA in Spanish 4 Dec 79 p 24

[Interview with Father Gustavo Alonso, superior general of the Claretians; date and place not given]

[Text] There are still many hardships, but the possibilities give reason for optimism. The church renews its spiritual work and material help. The superior general of the Claretians Father Gustavo Alonso, speaks to YA upon his return from Guinea.

Father Gustavo Alonso, superior general of the Claretians, has just returned from a trip to Equatorial Guinea.

[Question] What is your impression of Guinea?

[Answer] The country is suffering enormous hardships in every sense, but I find a very positive attitude in the people; a very hospitable people, living the great joy and hope of being able to get ahead. Quite a few exiles are returning now, but it is not easy to be reincorporated. They will have to find jobs, something which does not look easy at the moment.

[Question] And what is your impression of the church?

[Answer] The church is very reduced in its apostolic capacity, especially in pastoral personnel. For example, in the Malabo diocese, there are only six priests, four of them diocesan and the other two Claretians. In the Bata diocese, in the continent, there are eight Claretians and nine diocesan priests. The churches have been closed for more than a year. The buildings that I have been able to see are in fairly good condition; for example, the Malabo cathedral, which was opened for worship 3 weeks ago, is in fairly good condition, but it has suffered great deterioration as far as furniture and images is concerned. The residence of the Malabo bishop has been dismantled; there is no furniture and the library has been destroyed. Obviously, with the missionary personnel we have now we cannot even tend to minimum spiritual needs.

[Question] What is the attitude of the new government toward the church?

[Answer] The chapter vicars (who are now in charge, since there is no bishop in either of the two dioceses) are very worried. We will take charge of some of the missions again. In brief, in Bata the Claretians will assume three or four missionary posts, with three or four Claretians in each as a minimum.

I have not had direct contact with the president, even though we tried to speak with him, but these were busy days for him and we could not be received. We were, however, received by the first vice president, who is also the minister of foreign relations, and we spent several minutes with him. We have been able to verify the good will of the government, something which had already been manifested after 3 August; one of the first measures of the new government was to open the churches and free all political prisoners, including the priests. In speaking with other public officials, we have also been able to verify this good will toward the church. This good will is expressed especially in their wish to have the church participate actively in education, one of the sectors that has been affected the most. The dismantlement of education has been total. This also explains the contacts which have been established here in Spain with the FERE so that religious of the different orders can take care of education. Up to now the religious of the Holy Angel have returned to their educational activities in Bata, and the missionary sisters of the Immaculate Conception are taking care of the Malaba hospital. The Salesians, the religious of Jesus and Mary and the Brothers of the Christian Schools are also considering the possibilities for returning. The latter want to return soon.

[Question] How do you see the future of Equatorial Guinea?

[Answer] I do not think it is a desperate path they are undertaking, but on the contrary, it is a country which can recover in every sense, because it has great possibilities. For now, it has economic possibilities which, with a little help from foreign capital, can be put to good use. Also, the people have a very positive attitude. These are two elements which permit us to think about recovery and reconstruction in a rather short term. The future is quite hopeful.

9341

CSO: 4410



## ETHIOPIA

### AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN DENOUNCED

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 25 Dec 79 p 2

[Text] The United States is making all possible attempts at present to gain access to ports and airfields in some littoral states of the Indian Ocean for stationing combat forces in the region.

A statement released here by a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly denounced the new American move as a flagrant violation and total disregard for the aspirations of peace-loving peoples. The present US move in the Indian Ocean sets the stage for the implementation of an ambitious drive to return the world to the era of the cold war. This is indeed part of a longstanding American strategy, which fact has been confirmed by both Pentagon and State Department officials.

Socialist Ethiopia sees the American presence in the region as pure trouble-mongering in disregard of international conventions and understanding. This is a clear indication of Washington's hostile attitude towards world peace and stability. The military presence of the US in this region is a direct violation of the decisions of the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement and the Organization of African Unity, all of whom have declared the Indian Ocean a zone of peace.

The motive of the US in the Indian Ocean is conspicuous and in spite of the lame excuses it is providing as a coverup for its sinister designs, the American intention is to destabilize progressive governments in the region and arrest the tide of the liberation process. The US is now making strenuous efforts to set up a strong military base at Berbera and to obtain other similar facilities in the region, which will evidently encourage the expansionist policy of the Mogadisho ruling clique and other reactionary quarters.

American imperialism has not drawn any lessons from the humiliating defeats it had suffered in the past at the hands of progressive forces in Asia and Latin America. It is this same failure of being unable to learn from past mistakes that urges the US administration launch other blunderous schemes. Had it been otherwise, America would have refrained from meddling in the internal affairs of other sovereign states.

The antagonistic attitude assumed by US imperialism towards the struggle of oppressed peoples and its ambitions for world hegemony is a matter for concern. Washington's presence on Diego Garcia and the beefing up of its naval forces in the Indian Ocean are viewed with serious concern on the part of all littoral states and progressive mankind in general.

On her part, Ethiopia is watching with grave concern the latest American reactionary manoeuvres, which are clearly detrimental to peace and stability in the region. Ethiopia strongly condemns these imperialist-inspired machinations and at the same time urges all progressive and peace-loving governments and peoples to condemn in the strongest terms the aggressive policy stance of US imperialism.

The countries in the region are called upon to pull their resources together in the diplomatic and political fields in order to foil the latest imperialist conspiracy and keep the Indian Ocean a zone of peace. Revolutionary Ethiopia is fully confident that however much reactionary schemes the imperialists may work out, no force can reverse the course of the revolutionary stride of the world's oppressed peoples. In fact, the ill-designed plots drawn up by imperialism and its puppets shall be torn to pieces and the cause of peace, democracy and socialism shall emerge victorious over the forces of war, exploitation and human degradation.

CSO: 4420

## EDITORIAL DECRIES 'SAD PLIGHT OF MINORITIES IN USA'

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 30 Dec 79 p 2

[Text] On the eve of New Year, demonstrations were staged in a number of states in America in protest against the prevailing lack of rights and crying social injustice in the country. Dozens of demonstrations took place in the states of New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, North Carolina and Alabama under the slogans "End Political Repression!", "We demand Justice!" and the like. Such incidents clearly demonstrate the hollowness of the so-called free society and American way of life.

Despite empty cries on the part of the US ruling circles about "concern" for human rights in the world, the fact still remains that the American social and political system is the cause for gross neglect of rights and opportunities, as far as the country's ethnic groups and national minorities are concerned.

The American bourgeois press often speaks of that country as a "land of equal opportunities." However, facts prove the contrary; for the practice of cruel economic oppression and racial discrimination continue to be meted out against all national minorities and above all US blacks, Indians, Puerto Ricans and Mexicans.

It must be stressed that racism does not only imply lynchings, Negro pogroms, unpunished harassment and murder of leaders of the civil rights movement, but also discrimination in employment, in education, ethnic isolation and other forms of social humiliation.

Any attempt in favor of changing the deep-rooted traditions of racial discrimination is considered by the US ruling circles as an encroachment on the very system and a striving to undermine its foundations.

Take for example the case of George Harris, a young black American worker and a fighter for civil rights, who has been sentenced to death on a frame-up charge. It is not true that the US supreme judicial bodies and the Federal government refused to intervene on behalf of Harris to restore justice? This again proves that racism in the USA is not a "legacy of the past," as official US propaganda pretends it to be so, but a phenomenon that is rooted in the country's social and political system and one that is closely linked with the existing institutions and laws.

Experience has shown that in the past few years hardly any substantial measures have been taken to affect the social and economic foundations of racial discrimination. There exist ample proofs to substantiate this argument. For instance, whereas in the state of Alabama blacks account for a quarter of the population, they hold only about 3 percent of the teaching job in the local university.

The deprivation of civil rights for the non-white population is commonplace in the states of the so-called "Black Belt." It is known, for example, that not all blacks can make use of the constitutionally granted election right. If we take the state of Mississippi as a sample, the state laws there require that only those who can read, write, describe in written form any section of the constitution of the state and explain the duties of the citizens have the right to be registered for election. Moreover, the white registering clerk is the only one who decides whether the person in question qualifies as voter. These revelations clearly indicate that only very few blacks have access to ballot boxes in the southern states of USA.

The blacks are not the only national minorities who suffer from political, economic, social and cultural deprivation in American society. The country's indigenous population--the Indian, Hawaiians, Aleutians and Eskimos--are also subjected to untold suffering and even acts of extinction in the case of the Indians. US monopolies mercilessly exploit the land, forest tracts and water reservoirs of which these ethnic groups make use to preserve their way of life. Still in other respects, the Pentagon uses Indian reserve areas as nuclear and rocket testing grounds. It is perhaps quite in order to mention the fact that out of the one time 10 million Indians there are only 800,000 of them today.

Unemployment among the Indians ranges between 73 and 90 percent, the average educational standard is 5 grades and the average life expectancy for their individual members is 44 years.

The national minorities and ethnic groups in the USA are putting up struggle to restore their rights. But they all come up against a powerful legal and police apparatus. The punitive bodies of the state often join hands with ultra-rightwing organizations in harassing militant representatives of the oppressed minorities.

The experience of the struggle waged by US blacks, Indians and people belonging to other oppressed minority groups offers a clear testimony that the so-called American way of life is characterized by a host of social antagonisms and other complex factors which taken together constitute the prevailing capitalist system in the country--a system that cannot ensure freedom and equality for people.

## PLO PRAISES ETHIOPIA'S SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 1 Jan 80 pp 1, 4

[Text]

ADDIS ABABA (EH) — The Palestinian people have reaffirmed their appreciation to the Ethiopian revolution under the leadership of Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile-Mariam for its positive role and keen support extended to the Palestinians in their just and legitimate struggle against Zionism and racism in order to attain their legitimate rights to self-determination and an independent state on their own homeland.

The reaffirmation was contained in a press release by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) office here on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the launching of the armed struggle of the Palestine revolution against zionism inside the occupied territories and outside all along the armistice line.

Following is the text of the press release :

"On the fifteenth emanation anniversary of the armed struggle of the Palestinian revolution against the alien Zionist entity inside the occupied territories through the armed upheaval and outside all along the

armistice line to the expansionist enemy which has existed as a consequence of the arbitrary co-operation between imperialism, colonialism and colluded reactionary forces. These conspiring forces are still up to now supporting this alien Zionist entity with all means and ingredients to act outpost bridge-head and a military base against the welfare, prosperity, security and independence of the Arab people. Above all to be as an obedient tool to execute the aggressive policy based on expansion and to protect the exploiting interests over the Arab lands, from another side to be enable through expansion and aggression to plow up the forces of change where the Palestinian revolution represents its vanguard in this area.

After fifteen years of armed and political protracted struggle against Zionist racist enemy, and the unceasing conspiracies which aimed the Palestinian people represented in P.L.O. the sole and legitimate representative,



inspite of all this the Palestinian people still stand more firmly and courageously both inside and outside the occupied territories and more confident with the inevitable victory of their just cause. The inexorable struggle of the Palestinian people from the outset is a just struggle aimed to attain peace based on justice. The Palestinian people resisting aggression, occupation, expansion, settlement in order to achieve their just goals which have been admitted by the U.N. General Assembly in its 29th session, that gives our people the right of self-determination, the right of return and recuperation and the right to establish their independent state in their own land.

The Palestinian people when have chosen the path of armed struggle they did not take a permission from anybody, they practice only their legitimate right in the armed struggle that is recognized by the international laws as well as human rights which all gives our people the right to defend self-existence, life, property and future aspiration. the Palestinian people have exercised these rights with great bravery in spite of the complicated, difficult circumstances and the clear imbalance of power manifested by the unlimited support and assistance given by the United States to Israel, its bridge-head and ally in the Arab area.

The betrayal Camp-David agreement both with the Israeli treaty and the conspiracy of the so-called autonomy reaffirmed again the ambitions and interests of the U.S.A. "the arch-enemy of the people" in the area which

revealed the mask on its military strategy in the Middle-East especially after the triumph of Iranian revolution and this became clear through the formation of the 5th fleet and the establishment of the military interference force kept ready to launch its outrages, incursions against the oilfields and the achievement of the people in the area.

The Palestinian people look for a responsible international action to stop the continuous Israeli crimes and the savage bombing against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples which considered a flagrant violation of the United Nations resolutions and human rights, all the world have called to scrutinize and examine the policy of aggression based on the fascist military force in the Middle-East, if where the strategy of United States to protect the oilfields have constituted the cornerstone of its policy in the area, the right of the Palestinian people should be situated in the backbone of the peoples of this area and in the core strategy of its political forces, the Palestinian Arab people who are launching a comprehensive national resistance against the aggression occupation and settlement forces depends mainly on their own arm and they will never accept aggression whatsoever was the magnitude of this power in devastation and annihilation.

The international world must know that the admission of the rights of the Palestinian people to return to their own homeland the recognition of the right of self-determination, and the establishment of the independent state

in their own homeland shall constitute only the solid foundations to secure peace and stability in the Middle-East, otherwise there will be no peace at all.

The Palestinian people under the leadership of P.L.O. the sole and legitimate representative would like to confirm their appreciation to the Ethiopian revolution under the leadership of Chairman Mengistu for its positive role and keen support extended to the Palestinian people in their just and legitimate struggle against Zionism, racism in order to attain their legitimate rights in self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their own homeland and the Palestinian people would like also to confirm again their over solid stand with the Ethiopian revolution under the leadership of Chairman Mengistu as a progressive vanguard in the African continent, and would like to reaffirm their ultimate support to the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa in their fights against imperialism apartheid and racism and also to the liberation movements in Asia and Latin America against imperialism, colonialism and foreign hegemony.

At the same time we draw the attention of the national and progressive forces in Africa to the dangerous and conspiratorial role of reactionary Sadat regime colluded with imperialism and Zionism in his collaboration with the racist regime in South Africa and we consider it as an imperialist conspiracy directed against the national and the progressive forces in the African continent.

The Palestinian people in their just and legitimate struggle stand firmly with the socialist community in one militant trench in order to prevail peace based on justice all the people who are struggling to achieve their independence, social development prosperity and welfare."

EDITORIAL REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 2 Jan 80 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

Fifteen years have elapsed since the armed struggle of the Palestinian revolution against zionism has been effectively underway. During the period, militant Palestinians have waged a selfless and protracted struggle against the alien zionist entity inside the Israeli occupied territories which came into existence as a consequence of the wicked collaboration between imperialism, colonialism, zionism and reactionary forces in the region.

It was against the unholy alliance between these arch-enemies of mankind that the Palestinian Liberation Organization, in collaboration with peace-loving and progressive nations of the world, have been waging a life-and-death battle, with the legitimate purpose of attaining the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and national independence.

The PLO, as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, has scored tremendous successes by way of courageously resisting repeated zionist aggression and occupation in spite of the difficult circumstances arising from the imbalance of power which favours the zionist state as a result of the massive support and assistance given to it by world imperialism.

The Palestinian Revolution has also commendably strived to stop continuous zionist crimes and its savage bombing against the Palestinian and neighbouring Arab peoples in flagrant violation of United Nations resolutions and human rights.

The Palestinian liberation movement and all progressive countries sympathetic to its cause are fully aware that world imperialism and zionism still refuse to recognize the national rights of the Arab peoples of Palestine including its right to self-determination and creation of an independent state. Instead, the zionist state and its imperialist and reactionary allies, keep on working out conspiracies aimed at the destruction of the Palestinian Revolution.

An encouraging feature of that revolution, however, is that the progressive people of Palestine still stand more firmly and courageously both inside and outside the occupied territories with full confidence of the inevitable victory of their legitimate cause.

Sophistications in the imperialist tactics to perpetuate the zionist occupation of the Arab land and the magnitude of the armed might put at the disposal of zionism could by no means discourage the militant people of Palestine; On the contrary, it would only expose the growing contradictions of the self-tottering imperialist strategy.

Another promising revolutionary feature of the Palestinian struggle indicative of its victorious end is the far-sighted leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization in wisely and firmly standing with the world's socialist community prompted by the genuine desire to attain international peace and security based on justice.

It is amid this favourable international situation that the heroic people of Palestine have consistently resisted zionist aggression, occupation and expansion in order to achieve their just goals which have also been endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly.

Aware of the importance of securing sound international co-operation with the outside world, the PLO has wisely embarked on a genuine revolutionary mission to strengthen its international relations particularly with those countries in the socialist camp, and today several socialist countries steadfastly stand alongside the Palestinian cause.

Revolutionary Ethiopia, for one, has always enjoyed excellent relations with the struggling people of Palestine and earnestly continues to render her unfailing support to the just cause of the Palestinians. As the sole representative of the Palestinian people, the PLO has always reaffirmed its appreciation to the Ethiopian Revolution under the leadership of Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile-Mariam for its positive role and keen support extended to the Palestinian people in their just and legitimate struggle against zionism.

In a message marking the 15th anniversary of the launching of armed struggle of the Palestinian Revolution, the PLO has confirmed its solid stand with the Ethiopian Revolution. Revolutionary Ethiopia will continue, as in the past, to extend its full support to the courageous people of Palestine in their just struggle against zionism, racism and world imperialism.

CSO: 4420



## NEW SET OF STANDARDS TO BE PUBLISHED SOON

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 28 Dec 79 pp 1, 5

[Text] A set of 345 Ethiopian Standards are now ready for publication very shortly in addition to 108 standards that had been into effect up to now, the public relations office of the Ethiopian Standards Institution (ESI) disclosed here yesterday.

The 108 standards introduced since the creation of ESI in 1970 are mainly concerned with agricultural and industrial products both of local origin and imported ones. The public relations office also revealed that an additional group of 761 Ethiopian Standards are under preparation. The office said the ESI formulates standards applicable to materials, products and commodities and sees to it that they are effectively implemented.

## In Support of Economy

Standardization contributes to the national economy by raising the quality and quantity of products. Following the introduction of standardization leading agricultural products such as coffee, hides and skins, oil seeds and pulses have been able to earn the country increased returns in foreign exchange. According to the public relations office, the standardization process has also helped protect consumer interest in offering him with quality products. Besides safeguarding the consumer's health, safety and security are factors to be met by all products manufactured under specifications issued by the ESI.

The Ethiopian Standards Institution is also concerned with the checking and verification of all weighing and measuring instruments used in trade and commercial transactions throughout the country. The checking is done once every year. In the 1976-77 period ESI conducted such inspections totalling 153,379. This involved balances, weights, length measures, capacity measures, tank trailers and fuel distance metres. The number of balances checked and verified totalled 22,785 while that for weights totalled 127,305. The inspection and verification was carried out in Addis Ababa and different regions of the country.

According to the public relations office, standardizations have several advantages for production, purchasing and the national economy, by enhancing growth of national productivity. One of the major tasks of ESI is to protect the interest of domestic consumers as well as secure wider export markets abroad for Ethiopian products. The preparation of Ethiopian Standards involves the work of numerous technical committees, sub-committees and working groups, representing different organizations and relevant bodies concerned with the national economy.

At present there are 65 sub-committees functioning under 14 technical committees. The committees deal with basic and general standards, agriculture, building and civil engineering, printing, office activities and materials, mechanical engineering and metallurgy, chemical engineering, safety standards, electrical engineering, textiles, medicines and pharmaceuticals, food, water supply and sanitation, environmental hygiene and packaging.

The ESI maintains seven branch offices located in Addis Ababa, Asmara, Jimma, Awassa, Dire Dawa, Massawa and Assab. The ESI serves the whole country using these branches. The ESI is a member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Organization of Legal Meteorology (IOLM). It also is a founding and council member of the African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO).

CSO: 4420

# ADMINISTRATORS RETURN AFTER COMPLETING COURSE IN GDR

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 19 Dec 79 pp 1, 3

[Text] A total of 50 provincial and district administrators who have been following a three-month course in Marxism-Leninism in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) are now back home.

The leader of the team, Comrade Mulatu Gessesse said that the provincial and district administrators' course covered subjects such as the role of the working class party, the socialist theory of constitution, administration and the national economy and other related topics.

Comrade Mulatu said that the participants of the course have had the opportunity to follow with keen interest the revolutionary experiences of the GDR during the last 30 years in addition to inspecting and touring state farms in that country.

During their spare hours, the participants, said Comrade Mulatu, rendered voluntary services by collecting harvest and earned the admiration of the people of the host country for which they have also been awarded special prizes.

The provincial and district administrators on their part briefed the people of GDR on the progress of the Ethiopian Revolution and have presented films like Dil Tigil Tigil Dil to reflect the correct picture of Socialist Ethiopia.

On their return here the administrators met with Comrade Commander Lemma Gutema, the Minister of Interior, and Comrade Lt. Col. Mersha Ketsela, the Permanent Secretary, and explained to them the contents of the three-month course they had pursued in the GDR.

Addressing them, Comrade Commander Lemma expressed pleasure for the exemplary way in which the administrators followed their course and advised them to translate into deeds the knowledge they had acquired. He reminded them of their obligation to relate their experiences with the objective reality in the country and to strive for the effective implementation of the development and cultural campaign.

## ETHIOPIA

### HORTICULTURAL AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH FRG

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 19 Dec 79 p 7

[Text] An agreement was signed yesterday between Socialist Ethiopia and the Federal Republic of Germany concerning the development of horticulture.

The agreement contains a provision for an assistance amounting to four million D.M. (4,764,173 Birr) to Ethiopia by the Federal Republic of Germany to promote and improve production of fruits and vegetables for export as well as for local consumption. It was stated that the agreement was an extension of a previous assistance.

Comrade Tekola Dejene, Senior Deputy Secretary General of the National Revolutionary Development Campaign and Central Planning Supreme Council, and Ambassador Rudiger Von Pachelbel of the Federal Republic of Germany to Socialist Ethiopia, signed on behalf of their respective governments.

Speaking during the ceremony, Comrade Tekola Dejene acknowledged the contribution of the Federal Republic of Germany in various spheres of development and expressed thanks for the assistance provided on the basis of the new agreement. Comrade Tekola particularly thanked the Ambassador for the efforts he has made personally in connection with the assistance.

Speaking on his part, Ambassador Pachelbel hoped that the assistance would be a modest contribution to the development activities now in progress in Socialist Ethiopia and stated that Ethiopia has a great potential of supplying vegetables and fruits in large quantities to Europe and the Middle East.

The Ambassador noted the special role of vegetables and fruits in the foreign trade of Ethiopia and expressed admiration for the rapid pace at which the production and cultural campaign is being implemented.

CSO: 4420

## RETURNEES DESCRIBE EXPERIENCES IN SOMALIA

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 20 Dec 79 pp 1, 3

[Text]

**AWARE (ENA)** — The so-called Ethiopian refugees within shelters in Somalia are not Ethiopian citizens, but members of the families of the Somalia regular army.

This was disclosed by two Ethiopian nationals, Mewelid Sheih Abdulahi and Mohammed Umer Dubeid, who described their experiences in Somalia upon their return to the Motherland recently. The two individuals had been taken by force from the Ogaden, their birth place, by the troops of the reactionary Mogadisho regime to serve as leaders for the Somalia mercenary army.

Mewelid Sheih Abdulahi and Mohammed Umer made their comments while a team of senior officials from Hararghe region composed of Comrade Col. Zeleke Beyene, the regional Chief Administrator, Comrade Beshir Sheik Abddi, the Deputy Chief Administrator, and Comrade Col. Amefa Mengesha, the regional police chief, visited the area.

Mewelid Sheih Abdulahi recounted the injustices perpetrated by the reactionary Mogadisho regime on the people of the Ogaden. He said that many educated persons were taken by force to Somalia and succumbed to the sinister aims of Mogadisho because of their attitude towards the once divide-and-rule policy of the Haile Selassie regime.

Mewelid Sheih Abdullahi stressed that he decided to return after he realised the noble aims of the programme of the National Democratic Revolution and the sinister policies employed by the Mogadisho regime to deceive the people in the Ogaden.

Similarly, Mohammed Umer Dubeid stated that he had witnessed that the people in the Ogaden have in every aspect attained freedom and equality after the upsurge of the Ethiopian Revolution. He condemned the injustices committed by the Siad Barre regime on Ethiopian nationals in the Ogaden.



Mohammed Umer Dubaid declared that those who are in shelters within Somalia are members of the families of the Somalia regular army. The sheltered individuals, he said, are used by the Somalia regime to obtain assistance under the false claim that they are refugees from Ethiopia, he said.

Addressing the gathering later, the Deputy Chief Administrator, Comrade Beshir Sheik Abdi, said that the problem that the people in the area facing was inherited from the discredited feudo-bourgeois system. He said that during the old feudo-bourgeois regime, the people in the Ogaden were denied of their rights. He said that it was the revolution that restored the rights of Ethiopian nationals in the Ogaden.

Comrade Beshir Abdi said that what Somalia wants is not the people but their land.

Comrade Col. Zeleke Beyene, the Chief Administrator, also addressed the gathering. He said that the Provisional Military Government will live up to its pledge to organize and arm the masses. The government strives for the equality, unity and prosperity of the people, he said. In this respect, he showed how the policies of the Provisional Military Government differs radically from that of the discredited feudo-bourgeois regime.

The former regime and the regime of Siad Barre are identical both in content and form, said the Chief Administrator. Like the former discredited feudo-bourgeois regime, the Siad Barre regime has no interest in the

welfare of the masses, the Chief Administrator declared.

The Chief Administrator of Harar-ghe further spoke about the level of organization of the inhabitants of the Ogaden and said that the area would only be a haven for the oppressed. He said that the Ogaden will never be defiled by the troops of the reactionary ruling clique in Somalia.

Comrade Col. Zeleke expressed the readiness of the government to pardon those who seek amnesty and return to the Motherland. He pointed out that in spite of the fact that the Revolutionary Army has taught an unforgettable lesson to the invading troops of the reactionary Mogadishu regime, Somalia still continues to send infiltrators into the Ogaden to cause destruction. He added that these enemies of the people will be crushed once again with the strong fists of the Ethiopian broad masses.

The gathering was held at the Revolution Square of the town. Introductory remarks were made by Comrade Yussuf Ahmed, the administrator of Aware.

## ETHIOPIA

### DELEGATION RETURNS FROM CUBA, SWEDEN

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 20 Dec 79 pp 1, 3

[Text] Comrades Kassa Guebre, Minister of Urban Development and Housing, Comrade Engineer Tekeze-Shewa Aytenfisu, Minister of Mines, Energy and Water Resources, and Comrade Kassa Kebede, Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, returned here yesterday following a working tour of Sweden and Cuba.

Comrade Kassa Guebre, speaking to reporters on behalf of his colleagues, said that one of the major objectives of the trip to Sweden was to strengthen and enhance bilateral cooperation and assistance to Socialist Ethiopia's development endeavours. Comrade Kassa pointed out that various attempts had been made to confuse Swedish public opinion on the real aims and objectives of the Ethiopian Revolution and noted with satisfaction that this campaign is becoming increasingly bankrupt.

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing pointed out that the Swedish government is committed to extend more development assistance to Revolutionary Ethiopia and that plans to this effect have been finalized and will soon be operational.

Referring to the three-man delegation's visit to Socialist Cuba, Comrade Kassa expressed highest admiration for the sympathy and support which the people, party and government of that fraternal country have for Socialist Ethiopia and for the ongoing success of the Popular Revolution of the masses in this country.

Comrade Kassa Guebre said the revolutionary leadership of Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile-Mariam is tremendously appreciated at all levels in Cuba and noted that Ethiopian youth pursuing education in elementary and secondary education in that country are being given every possible convenience.

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing went on to state that the Ethiopian delegation met and discussed possibilities of further co-operation with high-level Swedish authorities during its stay there. He noted

moreover that the group availed itself of the opportunity to use all available media to explain to the Swedish public the real characteristic of the Ethiopian revolution. He said government officials greatly admired the on-going revolutionary process in Ethiopia in both the socio-economic and political fields of endeavour.

Comrade Kassa Kebede on his part stated that Swedish government assistance is concentrated on child care and family planning and that it is prepared to extend its assistance on this front. The Minister of Labor and Social Affairs said that the Ethiopian party had the opportunity of being received in audience by Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz. Comrade Kassa Kebede also stressed the great admiration and support of the Cuban people, party and government for the Ethiopian Revolution.

Comrade Engineer Tekeze-Shewa Aytenfisu recalled the visit here last October of a Cuban delegation led by the Cuban Minister of Chemical Industry and said the working tour of Cuba by the Ethiopian team of which he was a member was most fruitful. He said various agreements were signed during the visit.

The three-man Ethiopian delegation was welcomed at Bole International Airport by Comrade Major Mehari Measho, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, and Ambassador Arne Halleyryd of Sweden to Socialist Ethiopia.

CSO: 4420

COMMITTEE REAFFIRMS SOLIDARITY WITH PEOPLE OF URUGUAY

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 19 Dec 79 p 8

[Text] The Ethiopian Peace and Solidarity Committee, (EPSC), has reaffirmed its unswerving solidarity with the heroic Uruguayan people. The committee also demanded the release of General Seregni, President of the Broad Front who was detained in 1976 and the other political prisoners.

This was disclosed in a statement issued by the Ethiopian Peace and Solidarity Committee on the occasion of the week marking International Solidarity with the people of Uruguay. Referring to the atrocities perpetrated by the oligarchic regime imposed by the United States on the people of Uruguay, the statement said: "the fascist dictatorship has abolished all democratic institutions and has usurped all civil rights and freedom from the people, thus making Uruguay a nation of prisons."

The statement went on to say that physical and psychological tortures have become the favorite methods applied by the repressive regime against the Uruguayan people. All dissidents ranging from Christian Democrats to Communists as well as innocent children are suffering from harassment and imprisonment.

Since the oligarchic regime has failed to combat trade unions and associations along any open legal line of confrontation, the statement continued, it has intensified its military and political repression with the aim of liquidating all these organizations.

Elaborating on the method used by the oligarchic regime to kill all forms of opposition the statement stated, "This corrupt regime, uncertain of its position and its forces seeks to install a 'Brazilian type' of fascism by liquidating all opposition or by neutralizing resistance. South Africa, Chile, and other fascist regimes in Latin America are joining hands in the realization of this devious plan which is a threat to peace and detente."

It was also pointed out in the statement that the oligarchy is working in league with imperialism and leaving no stone unturned in defense of its interests. "These machinations of the oligarchy and imperialism," the statement carries on, "have not silenced the people. Different sectors of the population, standing in unison are valiantly working to defeat the dictatorship and to restore democracy."

## ETHIOPIA

### ACTION BEING TAKEN TO ELIMINATE NEWSPAPER SHORTAGE

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 23 Dec 79 p 5

[Text] The objectives of the Ministry of Information and National Guidance are to serve the revolutionary masses of Ethiopia with educational, agitational and informative messages through the Press, Radio and other media.

This was stated by Comrade Dehne Retta, Head of Advertising and Distribution Department in the Ministry, during a discussion with reporters prompted by this week's shortage of newspapers in the capital.

Comrade Dehne explained that shortages of newspapers, particularly those carrying proclamations are caused by paper boys who want to create a demand to sell the papers at higher rate.

Comrade Dehne revealed that the Ministry has published 5,000 additional copies to satisfy the immediate demand of this week and that the department has plans to establish sales centres to abolish illegal sales of newspapers in the future.

The department head noted that 2,000 more copies of the Amharic daily, ADDIS ZEMEN, were also released for sale on Wednesday with tight control effected and careful distribution carried out in the various centres under supervision.

Asked about the long term plans of the department to avoid short-comings on the fair distribution of newspapers, Comrade Dehne stated that efforts are being made to give orientation to paper boys by organizing them in ten zones. He further added that all those involved on the sale of newspapers have been issued with identification cards and are frequently given directives and warnings against illegally raising the prices of papers.

### Eliminate Set-backs

Comrade Dehne revealed that the Ministry, and his department in particular, has already embarked on seeking new venues that will eliminate some of



the set-backs that occur regarding the availability of newspapers in the market. He added that a restructuring of the department is underway to guarantee the smooth sales of newspapers.

Comrade Dehne reiterated that newspaper stands will soon be fixed in some centres of the capital where representatives of the department will make sure that the public gets them in time and for the marked price. He said that though this will be a modest start, the system will be expanded in the future throughout the capital.

The department head also assured that strict measures will be taken against individuals or groups that might attempt to distort the smooth sales of newspapers. He appealed to mass organizations and progressive individuals to cooperate with his department in exposing any paper boy or others trying to hide or sell newspapers at higher prices.

CSO: 4420

## ETHIOPIA

### TRADE WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA INCREASES

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 1 Jan 80 p 3

[Text] The exchange of goods between Czechoslovakia and Socialist Ethiopia has increased by more than 50 percent in the five-year period between 1974 and 1978 and than an even more dynamic growth can be expected in future, it was revealed in a report released by the Czechoslovak news agency Orbis.

The report noted that relations between the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and Socialist Ethiopia are being expanded in many spheres and notably in the economic line. The news agency said that economic co-operation between the two countries is being realized on the principles of equality and mutual benefit in the spirit of internationalist solidarity and in the interest of the peoples of Czechoslovakia and Socialist Ethiopia.

The agency further declared that Czechoslovakia extends full support to the construction of a socialist society in Ethiopia and is ready to expand economic co-operation with the latter. The agency noted that the development of trade between the two countries both in terms of turnover and percentage continues to show a steady growth.

The report said the engineering sector accounted for 72.51 percent of Czechoslovak exports to Ethiopia in 1978, which in terms of value amounts to over 10 million Birr. The items exported consisted mainly of non-electric equipment.

In respect to Czechoslovak imports from Ethiopia, leather and hides took the leading place and amounted around to 2.4 million Birr. Other items exported to Czechoslovakia included coffee and vegetables. According to Orbis's report, negotiations conducted in 1978 had set conditions for the expansion and intensification of economic relations between Czechoslovakia and Socialist Ethiopia.

The report discussed the visit to Prague of an Ethiopian delegation headed by Comrade Teferra Wolde-Semait, Minister of Finance, at the end of which an economic agreement was concluded between the governments of the two

countries. The agreement provided for the conclusion of contracts for deliveries of complement plant equipment to Ethiopia on a long-term credit basis. Another agreement signed in Addis Ababa concerns the construction of a brewery with a 20-million litre annual capacity to be built in Harrarghe region with Czechoslovak financial assistance.

#### Particular Attention

The Orbis report attached particular attention to the visit of Comrade Mengistu Haile-Mariam, Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, the Council of Ministers, Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Army and Chairman of COPWE, to Czechoslovakia in November-December of 1978. The visit resulted in the discussion of areas of co-operation mainly in the economic field, covering agriculture, industry, trade and scientific and technological development.

Ethio-Czechoslovak co-operation was further strengthened in 1979 following the exchange of official delegations between the two countries, that contributed to the expansion of bilateral relations. In concluding its report, Orbis News Agency cited that Czechoslovakia is ready to expand its technical assistance to Ethiopia in the leather and food industries and to deliver complete plant equipment for the construction of industrial projects in Ethiopia.

CSO: 4420

WOLLEGA ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS ON AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 30 Dec 79 p 5

[Text] Comrade Sub. Lt. Negussie Fanta, Chief Administrator of Wollega region disclosed that a large crop of grain has been produced in the eight state farms of the region.

Although grain cultivation in the region has surpassed the quota set earlier, with 36,845 hectares of land already put under cultivation, the chief administrator warned against impending adverse consequences due to the shortage of adequate combiners. Although he said that he has previously warned the concerned authorities on the shortage of storage facilities in the farm sites and the construction of roads suitable for big trucks, the grain produced is exposed to the rain now for immediate actions have not been taken.

Call for Immediate Action

Underlining that collecting the food grain was not enough unless harvested, in time, the administrator called on the concerned authorities to take immediate action and give priority to this immediate undertaking and to send big trucks for the purpose.

He also warned against impending adverse consequences in the Fincha farm site due to the rain and lack of constructed road. In Wama, though the cultivated NUG seed has been harvested by the peasants of the surroundings, it has not yet been collected due to the lack of combiners, it was learned. The peasants of Wollega region who farm on producers' cooperatives and individual basis are now translating into deeds the advice and directives given to them by the production cadres and experts to achieve high yields, it was further learned.

The other field of production is coffee and incense where 15,000 tons of coffee has been produced compared to the quota set, which was 2,000 tons, while the quota set for incense (5,000 tons) could not be met due to the sudden rain and shortages of farm laborers.

Comrade Sub. Lt. Negusse also disclosed that preparations are underway for the second phase of the development campaign part of which a general assembly meet is scheduled for next month.

## MASSAWA PORT ACTIVITIES, CIVIC LIFE SAID TO BE REVITALIZED

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 29 Dec 79 p 1

[Text]

MASSAWA (ENA) — Following the total liberation, last year, of the Red Sea area and the Port of Massawa by the Revolutionary Army, from the brief hold by secessionist bandits, port activities and civic life are showing drastic revitalization here.

In the past 8 months alone, goods and commodities amounting to 688,519 quintals and 37,363,382 litres of benzine, naphtha and other petroleum products have been freighted from this Red Sea Port to the regional capital of Asmara.

This was disclosed in a report by the Provincial Administrator and Chairman of the Provincial Development Campaign Co-ordinating Committee, Comrade Ali Igo, to the visiting regional Chief Administrator, Comrade Col. Fikru Wolde Tensee and members of the Regional Development Campaign Co-ordinating Committee.

The report outlines the achievements in development activity since the establishment in the province of a special supervisory committee for transport.

According to the report, the committee has contributed viably towards the realization of the National Development Campaign, through the con-

solidation of transport services, the timely clearance of goods from the port premises and their transportation to their respective destinations, raising the efficiency of freight trucks and giving due care to the handling and accommodation of goods.

Substantial achievements have also been made in other fields of endeavour.

About 3,000 quintals of wheat, 448 quintals of *Fafa* food, 16 quintals of powdered milk, 50 quintals of butter, numerous garments and household utensils have also been distributed to thousands of people under the rehabilitation programme in the province.

The people's committee for rehabilitation schemes in the province has offered job opportunities to over 1,300 needy people and is currently helping about 230 disabled and blind people in the area.

The report added, that the committee also allotted about 142,400 Birr of the total 166,400 Birr collected from donors, to the reconstruction and maintenance of about 1,146 houses in Edaga area which sustained damages of varying degrees and to various other activities.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN TIGRAI REGION PRAISED BY ADMINISTRATOR

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 29 Dec 79 p 3

[Text] The economic, political and social accomplishments of the inhabitants of Tigray region since the upsurge of the Ethiopian people's revolution have been described by Comrade Maj. Mulugeta Hagos, Chief Administrator of the region, as a source of inspiration and worthy of emulation.

Tigray is one of the regions which suffered most due to the maladministration of the past regime, in addition to the natural disaster, it has a population of 2,150,000 of which 110,000 are nomads while the rest live on farming. There are eight nationalities in Tigray.

On the political aspect, Comrade Maj. Mulugeta told ENA, the broad masses in this region are in the forefront in the class struggle of the Ethiopian people. The rural masses have been organized into 1,020 peasants' associations which politicize and coordinate the peasantry in all revolutionary undertakings. The townsfolk on their part have been organized under 10 higher urban dwellers' associations through which they actively participate in national revolutionary ventures.

## Worthy of Emulation

The vigilance of Tigray inhabitants in safeguarding the popular gains is noteworthy. The ardent fervour of the youth who staunchly stood on the side of the Revolutionary Army in the struggle against anti-Ethiopia forces was hailed by the Chief Administrator as worthy of emulation by the entire youth of the country.

The rehabilitation centre of Makale, which transformed the once misguided individuals into full-fledged revolutionaries, has on its part made a substantial contribution to the community.

The regional political school has also trained leaders of discussion forums and mass organizations through intensive Marxist-Leninist courses and they are not actively imparting socialist education to the community. Peasant cadres will soon graduate from this school on completion of a two-month course.



The Regional Administrator recalled that the spontaneous massive turnouts of people across the region in support of the Commission to Organize the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWE) is a manifestation of the consciousness in this part of the country.

In the economic field, the life pattern of the people who have been exposed to drought is changing dramatically. The joint efforts of the people to offset the effects of natural disasters are a promising initiative. Although the shortage of rains last season had adverse effects on harvest, much has been done to avoid further disaster. With the co-operation of the neighboring regions, grains have been transported to Tigrai while the distribution centres have effectively carried out their task.

The flour and oil mills in the towns of Makale and Quiha are fully operational at present to meet the needs of the local populace. The transport problems which were once rampant in this region have been solved to a large extent through the joint efforts of the people who constructed feeder roads and government institutions. The incense and sesame products of Tigrai substitute for the poor agriculture in this region.

Self-help ventures in Tigrai region can be cited as one of the best examples of the social undertakings of the Ethiopian people. The inhabitants are active in all infrastructure undertakings comprising a series of development-oriented schemes.

#### Keen Interest

The Chief Administrator availed himself of the interview to express the keen interest of the people in the resettlement programme. The people are eagerly looking forward to the day they will be mobilized to an area where they can be productive forces and thereby serve the nation.

The indifference which the people were once imbued with towards their neighboring communities has been overcome through sustained orientations and teachings. At present the people enjoy strong links with communities in neighboring regions.

The response of the illiterate to learn and the educated to teach in the literacy campaign going on in Tigrai region was also emphatically hailed.

Despite their few number, the peasant producers' co-operatives in Raya Azebo province, Tigrai region, are one of the socialist oriented ones.

While a glimpse of the overall progress taking place in Tigrai region can give an idea to the revolutionary sentiment prevailing in this part of the country, much has to be added to express the unwavering determination of the people to carry through the revolution to its ultimate goal, notwithstanding the bitter struggle ahead.

CSO: 4420

## HARERGE ADMINISTRATOR OUTLINES DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 27 Dec 79 pp 1, 3

[Text] Development efforts that have been fully geared towards a speedy recovery of the ailing agricultural economy of the administrative region of Hararghie, worst-hit by the unavoidable effects of war unleashed by reactionary and expansionist forces in the wake of the popular Ethiopian Revolution, has already begun to bear tangible fruit within a relatively short span of time. The agricultural economy of the region has recovered in the main from the serious war damage and entered a new stage of development as the socio-economic position of millions of peasants and the working people in general has undergone a radical change.

These remarks were made by Comrade Col. Zeleke Beyene, the administrator of Hararghie, during an exclusive interview with THE HERALD held in his office last week on the overall pace of development in the region.

Asked for comment on the general economic life of peasants in the post-war period, Comrade Col. Zeleke stated that peasants in Hararghie, having victoriously overcome security problems posed by reactionary and expansionist elements, are today resolutely marching along the path of socialist revolution with the view to bringing about the rapid restoration and development of agriculture. Thanks to the National Revolutionary Development Campaign and to the heightened ideological consciousness of the peasant masses, rural Hararghie had vividly demonstrated a rare talent and exemplary patriotic initiative to reorganize itself under extremely difficult conditions, Comrade Col. Zeleke noted.

On the basis of the glorious victories won on the war fronts and other revolutionary achievements scored as well as the high revolutionary zeal of the Ethiopian broad masses, the peasants have displayed economic miracles in Gode, Kelafo, Jijiga, Yerer, Assebot and Asbe Teferi by turning the partially devastated farmlands into rich and agriculturally developed sites, the administrator pointed out.

Comrade Col. Zeleke stated that at the Gode farm alone, a task force of 3,000 people comprising members of the Revolutionary Army, the peasants

and other working people, last year cultivated a total of 2,000 hectares of land with substantially high yields of production in maize, barley, onion and tomatoes.

The proposed setting up of a brewery in Hararghie has already aroused peasants in the region towards efforts in the provision of essential raw materials that would enable the brewery to acquire the necessary items from nearby local markets, while the government's resettlement scheme which has been underway for years now has effectively discouraged nomadic life in parts of Hararghie as a desirable step to promote agricultural productivity.

This favorable state of affairs as regards the enthusiasm and the working potentials of the peasant masses, the administrator noted, coupled with the government's settlement programme has not only given rise to bright prospects in increased agricultural production but also attracted increasing manpower resources, in that people who had been led astray by deceptive enemy propaganda and defected to the bushes or joined the enemy camp are now returning en masse to join the revolutionary masses in the Motherland in joint efforts towards national reconstruction.

#### Sound Co-operative Movement

On the pace of agricultural co-operative movement, Comrade Col. Zeleke said peasants in Hararghie have proudly played the honorable role of pioneers in systematically joining in co-operative farming. He cited the cooperative farming in Laga Ambo in the vicinity of Alem Maya where over 30 peasant families have joined in cooperative farming over a total of 30 hectares of land, with encouragingly high production turn-out last year. The pace of agricultural co-operatives is expected to be accelerated even further as the increasing rate of production continues to attract other peasants towards this movement, Comrade Col. Zeleke stated.

The administrator further noted that agricultural co-operatives, while laying stress on the level of production are also engaged in building lots of new houses and other material foundations in order to effectively join in co-operative farming, and the pace of agricultural development in this direction will continue to grow in due course.

Comrade Col. Zeleke also referred to the commendable industrial efforts exerted by workers in the Dire Dawa Cotton Factory where production has continued to increase annually. The Dire Dawa Cotton Factory, with a work force of over five-thousand, puts out a total of 36 percent of the total textile output of the country.

## Mass Education

On developments as regards the National Literacy Campaign, the administrator said it is highly gratifying to observe that the broad masses in Hararghie, regardless of differences in sex and age, are turning out en masse to obtain their education at locally obtainable places including those under the shade of trees without complaints whatsoever as to their convenience.

On one occasion alone, Comrade Col. Zeleke recalled, residents from the vicinity of Harar had raised over half-a-million Birr towards this effort.

The administrator emphasized the importance of the literacy drive as the most effective way of mass ideological awakening. "When the broad masses begin to read and write, the task of arming them with socialist education is comfortably facilitated as the people become directly familiar with reading materials put at their disposal," the administrator observed.

He also disclosed that plans are underway to train and mobilize journalistic staff for the regional radio station in Harar as an important step to enhance the tempo of socialist mass education.

Comrade Col. Zeleke said in conclusion that the first phases of the National Development and the National Literacy Campaigns have been an encouraging success in Hararghie, and called for re-doubling efforts during the second phase of the campaign in order to step up our just aspirations for socialist transformation.

CSO: 4420

## FEEDER ROAD INAUGURATED IN ARSSI ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 25 Dec 79 p 3

[Text]

ASSELA (ENA) — A 75-km feeder road connecting the towns of Huruta and Robi and costing 2.4 million Birr was inaugurated Sunday.

Built by the Arssi Regional Development Unit (ARDU), the newly completed road was inaugurated by Comrade Geleta Gemechu, first deputy chief administrator of the region, in the presence of officials representing ARDU and the Arssi-Bale State Farms Agency, the chairman of the Arssi regional peasants' association, as well as a large group of invited guests. The road connects two important urban centres in Ticho province.

A representative of the Ticho provincial peasants' association recalled the large amount of money collected by residents of the area under the name of "self-help" during the feudo-bourgeois regime and said the funds were pocketed by corrupt officials of the time. He said the revolution has opened a new horizon for the local populace and noted that the completion of the towns of Huruta and Robi should now open possibilities for regular passenger transport.

Comrade Gideon Asfaw, head of the ARDU road construction project, said the construction of the road will greatly contribute to the success of other provincial development projects included in the second phase of the Revolutionary Development Campaign.

The first deputy chief administrator pointed out that every development initiative currently undertaken in the region and the country as a whole for the benefit of the masses are direct outcomes of the revolution. Comrade Geleta underlined the role of road transport in expediting economic development and expressed the hope that the initiative taken in Ticho province will be continuously repeated elsewhere in Arssi region.

## NEED FOR ADEQUATE GRAIN STORAGE STRESSED

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 20 Dec 79 p 6

[Text]

**ADDIS ABABA (ENA)** — Warehouse shortage during the current harvest season is becoming increasingly acute, according to reports reaching here from various parts of the country.

The problem is likely to be even more pronounced as the peasant masses intensify the production campaign and live up to the challenge of draping the land with a green carpet. All the available evidence points to such a development.

An ENA reporter who joined a team of African Economic Experts touring various development projects in Arasi region over the weekend was informed by the authorities concerned that existing grain warehouses fall short of meeting the actual demand. The First Deputy Chief Administrator of the region, Comrade Geleta Gemechu, expressed serious concern over the shortage of grain silos and said a certain amount of crop could be spoiled and damaged for lack of proper storage facilities unless requisite measures are taken in time.

Comrade Geleta noted that bumper harvest is expected during the current harvest season but said available warehouses in the region are far from adequate — so much so that the regional administration office was compelled in desperation to commandeer some classrooms in Assela and to seek the co-operation of traders with storage facilities. Nor is the truck fleet of the Grain Marketing Corporation serving that part of the country reported to be able to cope with the task of transporting crops to grain silos in Addis Ababa and other points. The problem of storing harvest yields is bound to be even more acutely felt as a major state farm programme in the region gets under way, according to the first deputy chief administrator.

According to Comrade Geleta, an additional 55,600 hectares of land will be put under cultivation beginning next week under the management of the Ministry of State Farms. The project involves the resettlement of some 15,000 people under the auspices of the Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement Commission. The programme is in fact already afoot.



It is Comrade Geleta's considered view that the storage facilities of the Agricultural Grain Marketing Corporation should be considerably expanded. In Arssi and other agriculturally rich regions of the country, he noted, the task of providing for adequate storage facilities is becoming increasingly obvious and the problem of shortage of warehouses has to be squarely tackled as part of the development campaign. The challenge now facing development planners and executors, Comrade Geleta pointed out, is no longer that of providing for adequate present and future grain needs but of proper collecting and storing farm yields.

In this as in other areas of infrastructural endeavour, Socialist Ethiopia can benefit from the experience of other countries. An ENA correspondent recently back from the German Democratic Republic was reminded of the inflated rubber barracks widely in use there, which are not only mobile and economical but effective and practical as well for storage.

CSO: 4420

## FEEDER ROAD BEING BUILT IN SHOA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 20 Dec 79 p 1

[Text]

**ADDIS ABABA (EH) —** Intensive efforts are being made to complete the construction of the 105-kilometre Muka Toure-Alem Ketema feeder road linking the provinces of Selale and Merhabete in Shoa administrative region, this year.

According to a press release from the Ethiopian Roads Authority, 78 kilometres of the road has already been completed including four medium-size bridges built at a total cost of 861,885.71 Birr. Motivated by the unwavering determination to make the second phase of the National Development Campaign a success, the 175 workers assigned to the project are making concerted efforts to complete the giant undertaking which involves a lot of excavation works.

The release quoted Comrade Major Getachew Mengiste, the administrator of Merhabete province, as having said that the broad masses of Merhabete have long suffered from social and economic isolation due to the annual

overflowing of the Jema River for six successive months during the rainy season.

Comrade Major Getachew said he hoped the construction of the Muka Toure-Alem Ketema road and a bridge along the Jema River would enable the people of Merhabete to freely move in and out of their province all the year round thereby alleviating their economic difficulties that has long hindered them from obtaining accessible markets for their agricultural produce.

The overflowing of the Jema River has not only caused serious economic problems to the people in the area but also posed a grave threat to human lives, since it claims the lives of at least 70 people every year, according to statistics.

The total cost of the project is estimated at 1.5 million Birr including the construction of a 114-metre long Bailey bridge across Jema River.

## JOURNALISTS COURSE TO RAISE MARXIST-LENINIST CONSCIOUSNESS

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 21 Dec 79 p 6

[Text]

**ADDIS ABABA (EH) — Fifty** junior and senior reporters drawn out from the various departments in the Ministry of Information and National Guidance and a number of public relations offices from other organizations were awarded certificates yesterday upon completion of a three-month course sponsored by the ministry. The certificates were awarded to the participants by Comrade Baalu Girma, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information and National Guidance in a ceremony held at the City Hall.

The course, which was sponsored by the ministry and organized jointly by the Ethiopian Journalists' Association (EJA) and the Journalists' Association of the German Democratic Republic was designed to raise the Marxist-Leninist consciousness and the journalistic skills of the participants. This is one of the many such courses that the Ministry of Information and National Guidance has embarked on, and will conduct in the future to enlighten people involved in the mass media.

Speaking on the occasion, Comrade Baalu Girma stressed the importance of such training courses and noted that efforts are being made by the ministry to upgrade the skills of mass media men and women in line with the Programme of the National Democratic Revolution. He said that the merits of their newly acquired knowledge could only be valued when they are able to harmonize the theory they have learned with practice in the interest of the broad masses.

Comrade Baalu urged the graduating class to be committed to the cause of the masses and the aims of the revolution. He added that great dedication and alertness is necessary on the part of journalists in evaluating their work before it is out for the public. Comrade Baalu also spoke of the commendable role played by the mass media in the revolutionary struggle. The Permanent Secretary told the graduating group that they together with the other comrades in the journalistic field must be prepared to pay the necessary sacrifices for the further progress of the popular revolution.

Comrade Baalu noted that our revolution has reached a higher stage, but that more dedication and hard work are yet expected of every one of us wherever we may be. He said that the course participants must be able to utilize their knowledge properly in educating, informing and agitating the masses on the revolutionary path for genuine freedom equality and justice.

In addition, Comrade Baalu revealed that the ministry has plans for both short and long-term in-service training programmes and added that a training centre for journalism will be established within the ministry in due course of time. During the occasion, the instructors from the GDR donated three cameras to the ministry of Information and National Guidance. The ceremony was attended by officials of the ministry, the Embassy of the German Democratic Republic and other invited guests.

CSO: 4420

## GRADUATE STUDIES IN MEDICINE BEING DEVELOPED

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 18 Dec 79 p 3

[Text]

ADDIS ABABA (EH) — Comrade Dr. Abraham Besrat disclosed that ten general practitioners are currently following a specialized two year training course at the School of Graduate studies in internal medicine. He further added that preparation is underway to start a programme for specialist certificate in surgery.

The Dean of the School of Graduate Studies stated that there are various programmes for post graduate studies in the long-range plan in the field of medicine in order to overcome the shortage of high-level medical personnel now apparent in the country.

Among the programmes he said, training in the field of pathology will start at the beginning of the next academic year. The Dean added, that training in anatomy has already begun. The Head of the graduate school revealed that a programme in the field of pediatrics has begun and six trainees have already joined it.

One of the most serious problems encountered in opening certain essential fields of education is the shortage of highly qualified teachers Comrade Dr. Abraham pointed out.

Referring to the criterion for admission, he said, any body who has successfully completed his first degree requirement in medicine, that is MD and has served as general practitioner in the countryside for two years can offer himself as a candidate. He very much appreciated the collaboration of the Ministry of Health in securing competent candidates for the training.

The Dean of the Graduate School explained the trainees will render their services during their free hours in some of the hospitals in the city. He believed that their activities have especially helped in improving the services of *Tikur Anbessa Hospital*.

Currently 150 students are pursuing studies under the eighteen programmes of the school and over forty-two of them are expected to graduate at the end of this academic year, he declared.

The Addis Ababa University has increased its intake capacity for undergraduate studies in the field of medicine and, accordingly, about 100 students are at present enrolled in the

Faculty of Medicine, he revealed. The College of Public Health in Gondar, the Dean added, has raised its status to MD level with the assistance of GDR and here also about 100 students are pursuing the training.

### **Long-term Goal**

When seen from the short term point of view, he explained, the graduate studies programme creates shortage of man-power. However, since the primary objective is to meet the demand for high-level teaching personnel which will in turn produce the necessary trained staff the long-term gain of the project will justify the present risk, he opined. He underlined the increase in enrollment of students in the undergraduate studies cannot be realized without producing the high-level trained man-power.

Indicating some of the reasons why the university opened programmes of graduate studies Comrade Dr. Abraham stressed the urgent task to develop research in accordance with the needs of the country. Ethiopian students abroad are not expected to do their dissertations on topics relevant to conditions in their country. He said, the students expected to graduate from here this year will present their research work on problems in the country. Thus the school will develop and promote research in the various fields of discipline which are highly important for the overall development of the society, Comrade Dr. Abraham concluded.

CSO: 4420



REPUBLIC OF KOREA DONATES MEDICINE

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 28 Dec 79 p 3

[Text] A donation of medicine and nursing articles, worth about 46,000 Birr, was delivered to the Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement Commission by the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea of promoting co-operation in medical field between the two countries and willingness to be helpful to the settlement programmes of the Ethiopian Government. He added that we live in an era where international co-operation here yesterday.

During the handing over ceremony, the Ambassador said that the friendly gesture is based on a spirit of cooperation among developing countries is proving extremely important in their endeavours to achieve significant socio-economic development. The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea continued: "In a sustained effort to break through everlasting cycles of hunger, poverty, ignorance and disease which will still afflict much of our population, we developing countries are invariably urged to unite and co-operate among ourselves regardless of differences in our political, economic and social systems."

He further pointed out that his country has been providing the Ethiopian Government with two doctors for more than ten years and with some agricultural experts and machinery since this year. The Ambassador stated that his government, in compliance with the requests of Ethiopian health authorities, has extended further term of services of the two Korean doctors, and is considering to send more doctors to Ethiopia next year.

After receiving the donation, Comrade Major Tesfaye Berhanu, the Deputy RRSC Commissioner, expressed his appreciation and thanked the ambassador for the donation. Comrade Maj. Tesfaye said that the medicine and nursing articles would be made to reach the Ethiopian masses as soon as possible. He expressed hope that such humanitarian gestures would continue in the future.

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## ETHIOPIA

### AMIBARA IRRIGATION PROJECT TO BE COMPLETED AHEAD OF TIME

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 18 Dec 79 pp 1, 10

[Text] Construction work of the 117-million Birr Amibara Irrigation Project (AIP) is hoped to be completed ahead of schedule, thereby enhancing the implementation of the project earlier than anticipated.

Comrade Dr Zewdie Abate, executive director of AIP, informed THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD that the project is expected to be completed in the early part of the year 1983. He indicated that the time originally set for the completion of the project was seven years, while under the present rate of progress it will take no more than five years. The executive director attributed this positive outcome to the result of the coordinated supervision and the concerted efforts put up by workers engaged in the project estimated at about 1,500.

Comrade Dr Zewdie said the early implementation of the project will enable the nation to draw the benefits from the project ahead of time. He said a gross annual revenue estimated at 30 million Birr could be secured from the project. As further elaborated by Comrade Dr Zewdie, by the time it becomes operational, the project could provide gainful employment to some 20,000 to 25,000 people including seasonal workers. Moreover, the project will make a significant contribution to the national income by way of raising foreign exchange earnings from the export of cotton and haricot beans.

Construction work on the Amibara project was launched in August of 1978 and so far nearly 55 percent of it has been completed. As revealed by the AIP executive director, around 42 million Birr has been expended on the project to date. The AIP is an internationally-funded scheme, aimed at developing irrigated agriculture in the Middle Awash Valley. Besides the Ethiopian Government the other financing bodies are the International Development Agency (IDA), the European Economic Community (EEC) and the African Development Fund (ADF). The Awash Valley Development Agency is the implementing agency of the project.

According to figures released by the AIP, the project will help bring 10,285 hectares of land under gravity irrigation by the time it becomes operational in the early part of 1983.

The area of new land to be developed under the scheme will come to 7,500 hectares, while existing farms with a combined area of 3,140 hectares will be converted from pump to gravity irrigation. These cover the state farms at Melka Sadi, Amibara and the 300-hectare station run by the Institute of Agricultural Research (IAR) at Melka Werer.

Of the 7,500 hectares new land expected to be developed in Middle Awash, the first 2,000 hectares, 627 hectares at Melka Sadi and 1,374 hectares at Amibara are to be planted with cotton. The first yield is hoped to be harvested in November-December of 1980 and the produce from the two farms is estimated at 50,000 quintals, assuming a yield of 25 quintals per hectare. The main crops to be raised in the Middle Awash Valley are cotton, maize and harrirot beans.

As engineering data furnished by the AIP reports the project involves the construction of a low rockfill diversion weir, standing four metres high with a length of 100 metres designed to discharge 700 cubic metres of water per second. The main canal will be 27 kilometres long and there will be a main drain having a length of 25 kms. There will be number of dykes with an estimated length of 53 kilometres.

Other aspects of the irrigation network involve the construction of secondary and tertiary canals whose lengths are set at 35 and 75 kilometres, respectively. The tertiary canals will be used for on-farm development purposes. The drainage network will have 29 kilometres of secondary drains and 75 kilometres of tertiary drains for onfarm development.

The project also embraces the construction of 50 kilometres of principal roads and another 50 kilometres of service roads. In respect to land clearing 5,750 hectares of light and heavy bush will be cleared in addition to levelling of 7,500 hectares of land. Two airstrips, one at Melka Sadi and the second at Amibara, will be readied for use of crop spraying aircrafts.

CSO: 4420

## BRIEFS

EARTH TREMOR--A slight earth tremor is reported to have taken place in Bena Kulo district of Hammer-Bacco province in Gamo Goffa region. The tremor occurred on Dec. 18 at 8:50 a.m. and lasted for two minutes, according to Lt. Col. Zerihun Aragaw, Assistant Chief of Police in Gamo Goffa region in Charge of Crime Prevention and Investigation. No damage to property or loss of life has been reported. [Text] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 16 Dec 79 p 6]

ROAD BUILDING--Self-help development work in road building is progressing rapidly in many regions of Ethiopia. A 24-km feeder road linking the towns of Waka and Lomie in Kulo-Konta province, Kaffa region, was inaugurated this week. Meanwhile the inhabitants of Lomie district and Wollaita are being mobilized to construct a 50-km feeder road to link the provinces of Kulo-Konta in Kaffa region and Wollaita in Sidamo region. Another 12-km road was put in service by the Hanna Lemi Peasants' Association in Bedele district, Bubi province of Illubabor region. Residents of Degaga town and peasants of Albuko district of Kalu province, in Wollo region also have jointly repaired and levelled a 24-km road running from Albuko district to Dessie town. Over 41,635 Birr was raised this week for the construction of Abomsa Angada and Jeju road by inhabitants of Merti district of Arba Gugu province in Arssi region. A sum of 285 thousand Birr is needed for the realization of the Abomsa and Jeju road project. [Text] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD IN English 29 Dec 79 p 6]

CSO: 4420

GENERAL SITUATION, SPECIFIC PROBLEMS DISCUSSED

Bongo Interview

Paris LE MONDE in French 30-31 Dec 79 pp 1, 5

[Interview with President Bongo, by special correspondent Gilbert Comte: "In many cases, France and Gabon have joint interests"--date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Our special correspondent Gilbert Comte recently met with the president of the Gabonese Republic and asked him to take stock of the situation in his country.

[Question] Right now, Gabon does not have an excellent reputation. Ill-considered spending has caused business to intrude into politics and has been a cause of waste. Your own example does not encourage austerity. You had a lavish palace built for yourself. You and your family just had a vacation in California where you have bought an expensive villa on the Pacific coast. Do you really believe that in doing this you have been serving your own and your country's reputation?

[Answer] Frankly, I deplore your first remark. It has been expressed much too often in the past 2 years. How many times have I had to hear about this palace! To be told that it had engulfed huge amounts of money, and I don't know what else. Well, since the criticism has been expressed, I must answer it.

True, the palace is large. But, in addition to my apartments reserved for official receptions, it contains a real administrative complex, all departments of the presidency, which used to be housed in several buildings: offices, archives, documentation centers. Nobody comes here, except scores of civil servants who work here. It is not a place of amusement, but a working place. When I am gone, it will be my successors', i.e. at the country's disposal.

As for the intrusion of business into politics, I have myself often denounced the unscrupulousness of certain people (even leading citizens), in particular in my speech of 11 March 1976. Many people had forgotten their offices. They preferred opening shops. To straighten out our finances, which had actually been mismanaged due to these practices, I have personally negotiated with the Lazare and Morgan banks. They have imposed on us a truly disciplinary regimen. We have been asked to tighten our belt for 2 years, under supervision from the International Monetary Fund. We have signed a long-term agreement with this Fund and with Banque Lazare. Every third month, their representatives audit our management. Everybody has ascertained a recovery.

Since you are questioning me directly concerning my recent trip to the United States, let us talk about personal matters.

My private life is very orderly. I do not smoke. I do not drink. I do not go to race-tracks or to gambling casinos. If I did, the press would have been waiting all along: "Bongo smokes, Bongo drinks, Bongo is having fun." I do not dare do it, it is because it cannot. The truth is that I am in my office from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Everybody in Gabon knows that. When I leave my desk, I go back home.

It is true that I have bought a villa in Los Angeles. Like so many others, I could have used shenanigans, I could have hid behind go-betweens, used a straw man to cover up the transaction. I have chosen to act openly and publicly. For the payment, I applied for a loan with the City Bank of New York because it has a branch office in Libreville. As collateral for the loan, it took the villa I personally own here. Nothing is more regular. If it were not so, it would be known since United States journalists always end up knowing everything. Citibank granted me an addition loan for 1,200,00 [as published] dollars. This represents the price of the villa, attorneys' fees, etc. Much larger figures have been mentioned. They are vastly exaggerated. I saw them increasing day after day in the newspapers. This is ridiculous.

You may ask why I am purchasing a villa in the United States. Feel reassured, I have no intention of settling there. But I have two daughters. Both are just starting to go to California universities. Must they stay at a hotel after I have left? If they did, journalists would report that Bongo's daughters live in a hotel where you never know who is dropping in. I have chosen to buy them a place to live and work in peace and quiet. When they have completed their studies, I shall sell that villa. My Paris apartment is large enough for me when I am out of Gabon.

[Question] Between 1976 and 1978, urban improvements, often out of proportion with the needs and resources of Gabon, have seriously endangered its finances. You have opened a ruinous and costly triumphal avenue. Would you not say that it would have been better to do things on a smaller scale, and to devote your resources to education and public health, for instance?



[Answer] You are probably not very qualified to ask this question. When we became independent, we inherited a naked land. In seventy years, France had not built much. No palace, of course! But also no roads and no bridges. At best inadequate tracks, slow ferries which were threatening ruin. The administration was draining the country's wealth to the outside. As you say in France, Paris was not built in one day. Libreville, Gabon cannot be built in one day either.

Besides, these improvements are made with Gabon's money, and we also use it to reimburse foreign loans. In the ensuing business activity, France did not fare too bad.

This does not mean that we have been neglecting social investments. Most of the national budget is devoted to education and health, as well as to public works.

We have not published that fact enough, for lack of good publicity. In the future we shall take better care of our window-dressing.

[Question] The second conference of the Gabonese Democratic Party has nominated you as candidate to the presidency of the republic. In a one-party system, how can you speak of democracy? What is the meaning of an election where you will have no challenger?

[Answer] In Africa, a single party is a symbol of national unity. Without unity, any policy is doomed to failure. Gabon does not have a monopoly on this system. After decolonization, it became the rule everywhere.

In 1968, I created a single party, a party with a broad base to which everybody is free to adhere. I am leading it with authority because I am in charge of it. But I am not attempting to exert a dictatorship. Within the party, everybody can express his opinions, his dissatisfaction. I am listening because I appreciate outspokenness. If my opponents are right, I yield to their arguments. If not, I argue with them. I never oppress anybody.

It is not in the African tradition for a community to have several leaders. People come to the sole leader to air their grievances. During meetings of the central committee or of the political bureau, members can express criticism. Decisions are taken by majority vote. Some are taken against my advice. I do not retaliate. To do so would be to paralyze my power.

The elections serve to appoint a president. There has to be some act to prove that he emanates from the nation. Like so many others in Africa, I could do without consultations at the polls, and even without the Assembly, I could restrict state control to the central committee. There would be no uprising. But little by little I would be accused of governing by issuing orders, and this system would have evil consequences.

## New French Ambassador

[Question] The appointment, at your request, of a French ambassador\* selected outside the diplomatic career, among high counterintelligence officials, has caused some surprise in Paris, to say the least. Would you not say that this appointment is somewhat compromising?

[Answer] Let us look at things in their true perspective. We have not selected this ambassador. He has been suggested to us, and we have agreed to the request. The difference is worth noting. Mr Robert's appointment is making waves in certain circles which it disturbs, circles where I am not always liked. For propriety's sake, I shall not name anybody. Anyhow, an ambassador takes his orders primarily from his government. The government appoint whom they want to represent them. Nobody can force their hand. The past of a diplomatic agent probably does not weigh much against other considerations. The high representative of France is working in Gabon for his country. I do not believe that he has come here to gather intelligence. His mission gives him enough other occupations. His past may be a cause of worry for some of the cook's boys in your internal kitchen. That kitchen is not ours.

## Bokassa's Deposition

[Question] French and Gabonese interests converge on many points. Nevertheless, you appear to entertain close personal relations with the rulers of the 5th Republic. During the recent deposition of Bokassa in the Central African Republic, Gabon was used as a logistic base for the coup engineered in Paris and executed by paratroopers. Would you say that participating in such an undertaking, whatever its reasons, is proper and respects African sovereignty?

[Answer] Bokassa's deposition was not decided in Gabon. Normal, official and legal, agreements between certain African states and your country, give the latter the right to maintain a military contingent on the territory of these states. Such is the case in Libreville. I am not embarrassed to mention it. How these soldiers are to be used, is for the French government only to decide. They can use them as they please. If these forces are ordered to intervene in a territory where French nationals are in danger, or are being maltreated, they leave to help their fellow-countrymen, and I have no way of preventing them to do so. Such was the case in Bangui.

[Question] But are you not stretching somewhat the meaning of the words "logistic base?" A Transall left from here with rather numerous forces aboard. However, the number of French soldiers in Bangui exceeded by far the number of those in garrison at Libreville. The excess must have come from other countries.

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\* See LE MONDE 19 Dec 79

[Answer] Actually, France and Gabon have joint interests in many cases.

My relations with French leaders take place on a state-to-state level. Sometimes, we disagree. But I would mislead you and your readers, and make a mockery of truth, if I did not add that, in fact, it is more than that. You cannot prevent men who have come together for sometimes hard-to-conclude discussions to develop esteem, respect and even friendship for each other over a period of years. The special relations existing between France and its former colonies are conducive to such rapports. Our official language is French. Our national language is French, too. A 6-hour flight separates Libreville from Paris. The weight of circumstances always determines the feelings of men.

No! Gabon is not xenophobic, and shall not become so. Even though regrettable incidents may have given the opposite impression, the Beninese left quite in accordance with regulations.

Some Lebanese, too, thought they could do as they pleased. As in other African countries, they used all means offered by corruption to carve a small commercial kingdom for themselves. They have proved to be dangerous, very dangerous. After being expelled from Senegal, Ghana, the Ivory Coast, Mali, they brought their dishonest methods here.

[Question] Finally, the methods of your police, especially those of some of your French assistants, seem to have become exceptionally brutal, if one is to believe persisting rumors. Would you care to comment on the subject?

[Answer] A journalist does not disclose his sources. Therefore, I shall not ask from whom you have your information. Your question is one which no head of state likes to hear. I shall answer it candidly, no matter how unpleasant it is to me. Yes, some people "goofed." As a Frenchman, you are not without knowing that this does not happen only in Gabon. Yes, "cooperants" [French military draftees serving overseas in civilian capacity] have at times exceeded their orders. Yes, Gabonese officials have acted improperly for their part. What government does not experience this kind of excess from time to time? Grant me that nothing of the kind had happened here during the past 10 years.

#### Political Analysis

Paris LE MONDE in French 30-31 Dec 79 p 4

[Article from special correspondent G.C.: "Reorganization of Economy Burdened by Wastefulness is Priority Objective"]

[Excerpts] Libreville--The religion of figures and statistics is sometimes sorely tried in central Africa. While some demographers estimate the Gabonese population at 500,000, official documents say they are 1 million. According to far more refined estimates, the exact figure is somewhere halfway between

both extremes, between 650,000 and 800,000 souls. A systematic census would probably come closer to the truth. But people under the tropics dislike accuracy. Not without reason. Through it, they can see the modern world and its restraints and, in the background, the pitfalls of rationalism.

With its 300 billion CFA francs, the Gabonese budget is recording less evasive figures in its accounts. According to the latest of those, timber, uranium, manganese and oil exports account for practically all receipts. The sale of these four raw materials alone brings income far above those resulting from industrial or agricultural products. Wealth is shaping the outlook of people. It creates habits. In Libreville, as almost everywhere nowadays, it removes from the sphere of politics.

Indifferent to ideological quarrels, public opinion expects from the authorities that they first redistribute the money in the form of social investments--roads, bridges, schools, hospitals--of government salaries or of commercial profits. As long as the oil manna is distributed in a fairly normal way, nobody will cause major trouble, and opposition will be restricted to student circles abroad.

The rather remarkable mediocrity of the interventions at the second conference of the Gabonese Democratic Party, which met in the capital during the first half of December, was a perfect translation into facts of this routine. Under such circumstances, the unanimous nomination of Mr Omar Bongo as a candidate to the presidency of the republic could only take the meaning and the appearance of a formality.

Even if it does not give rise to a controversy, this election where the head of state is his own successor will undisputably result in medium-term problems. From 1975 to 1977, yielding to solicitations from French business circles, which a moderate comparison would equal to birds of prey, the country accumulated excessive spending. The comparison with birds of prey may disturb some. It expresses the truth. Hydrocarbons actually multiplied national resources by 10. Following the never-changing law of capitalism, each company wanted its share. The largest possible share, of course. The former French ambassador, Mr Delauney, who was very close to business circles, did nothing to brake the trend. If he had, he probably would have displeased in Paris.

The debt accumulated during 18 months of dismaying wastefulness, is now forcing the present minister of finances, Mr Jerome Okinda, to severely curtail spending. Month after month, his method is replenishing the treasury. Within two years, it should be very well off again. The people have accepted financial austerity without complaining, in spite of the sacrifices it entails for the time being. The annual income of the Gabonese, in spite of all, is well above that of the neighboring countries. They know it and do not complain about it. However, in a period of restrictions, the apparent wealth of some dignitaries, sudden fortunes of doubtful origin irritate the less-fortunate majority. In the capital, the working classes hope that, come January, the president will "clean up."

## Corruption

The still abundant currency circulation does not help the reorganization. When easy money is oozing from everywhere, execrable habits are proliferating. A few days after the second conference of the Gabonese Democratic Party, the government daily L'UNION confirmed the discovery of a huge case of customs corruption.

L'UNION, of course, did not reveal this serious case without prior consent of the president of the republic. Like all his colleagues throughout the world, he hates to be spattered with such scandals. They do the regime a disservice. But Mr Bongo has measured the difficulty of starting a second 7-year mandate without some amount of reorganization. Until now, critics have spared his record and his person, even though they have not spared his entourage. In Africa more than anywhere else probably, the people instinctively dissociate the leader from the mistakes which are made while he is in charge. While he is judged severely abroad, Mr Leon Mba's successor enjoys a real and solid popularity at home. In spite of many mistakes, of the money thrown out of the windows, the country has modernized considerably since he has been governing. His compatriots remember that and praise him for it.

His skill in handling, his personal charm, both unknown or overlooked abroad, insure a balance between ethnic groups which no other Gabonese appears as capable of achieving. For this one capital reason, and in spite of many problems, he retains at his disposal a far much larger margin of handling than is usually assumed by casual observation. How is he going to use it now?

9294

CSO: 4400

## LIBERIA

### BRIEFS

OPPOSITION PARTY ESTABLISHED--A socialist opposition party, the People's Progressive Party [PPP] was recently established in Liberia, where the "Probate Court" (administrative tribunal) has as a matter of fact confirmed its decision made on 24 December 1979 in favor of the PPP. The sole objection, brought up by a private individual, to the recognition of this party was withdrawn later. The PPP was established by the leaders of the Progressive Alliance of Liberia [PAL], opposition party claiming kinship with "African socialism" and founded in 1974 by exiles in the United States. [Text] [Paris LE MONDE in French 13-14 Jan 80 p 6]

CSO: 4400



## MADAGASCAR

### DETAILS ON NATIONAL SERVICE GIVEN

Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 20 Dec 79 pp 1,2

[Text] The Defense Minister, Cmdr Guy Sibon, received the journalists yesterday afternoon at Ampahibe. Upon the announcement of this press conference, organized by a minister known for his discreet character, one could only wonder about the exceptional character of this summons. This, as a matter of fact, had to do with a "review and analysis," concerning the development of National Service outside the armed forces. After 2 years of experience, the promoters of the operation are now able to come up with some comments.

Here are the main points in the overall activity review; so far, we are doing well in the fight against illiteracy; SN [National Service] is doing a good job under the ministry of primary and secondary education where, in particular, the young recruits fill the vacuum left by the increasing shortage of teachers between the sixth and third years. And then of course there are the results of contact between these young people and the real situation of the country throughout the entire duration of their service--and that is no mean thing.

Minister Sibon Guy yesterday revealed these positive aspects of National Service outside the armed forces. Among the negative aspects, he mentioned above all the material difficulties inherent in calling up the interested young people in justifying the need for new recruits, and in the ways in which they are assigned to their duties. It goes without saying that the minister did not go into detail on each of these problems. But one thing is no less certain and that is that, in the future, and in the light of past experience, these services and those of the interested ministries as well as the officials of the decentralized committees will enable us to make sure that we can operate faster and more effectively on all levels.

#### Basic Training

In the light of all of these both good and bad observations, a certain number of innovations will then be instituted in the development of the

next National Service cycle. Hereafter, the young draftee graduates will, immediately after registration, put in one month of purely military training. Everyone can understand the reason for that; after all, these young people are putting in their military service outside the armed forces. And they do need basic military training. Girls and boys will be trained according to their qualifications which may be "strong," "medium," or "low." They will handle rifles like anybody else. They will do the confidence course like anybody else. After the ministry of defense took over National Service outside the armed forces in 1978, it was decided to avoid the mistakes of the preceding year. Since that, there has been close collaboration between the office of college education and Ampahibe. The defense minister is responsible for drafting the young recruits. Starting in January, they will be wearing uniforms: green cap, khaki shirt, and green skirt or slacks for the girls; green cap, green shorts or slacks and khaki shirt for the boys. Each draftee will be entitled to two of these types of uniforms. Upon completion of their service, they will have to return the uniforms. If not, the doors of the university will be closed to them or they will not be able to go abroad in order to pursue their higher studies there. As we can see, there is going to be real military discipline in SN.

#### Satisfaction

In this connection, the defense minister was asked yesterday whether the SN people so far have been giving satisfaction to the ministries that utilized them and to the population areas to which they were assigned. The question is indeed justified in view of their tender age and the fact that they have little experience in terms of how to handle this kind of responsibility.

According to reports forwarded to him, minister Sibon Guy declared that he was "satisfied," although he did add that this is an overall comment, in other words, there may be "special cases," among the young draftees. "This sort of thing does happen."

In 1977 and 1978, 13,974 youngsters served (or are still serving) in the National Service outside the armed forces; 140 draftees were classified by the minister as "bonafide absentees" or "failed to register," although none were classified as "deserters" because he thought that the individuals concerned perhaps did not get their draft notices in time. The latter however cannot consider their service as "having been completed." A new draft call will be issued to them next year, that is to say, they will be registered with the 1979 graduates. For those draftees who were accepted for the first session of college studies, the draft notices will be issued starting on 20 December. Those in the second section will get their notices 15 days after the announcement of their results. Those who are still on duty will take their "tests"

a few days after their return to the university or their departure for abroad. In any case, as far as the 1979 graduates are concerned, the military training we mentioned earlier will be given between 3 and 30 January 1980.

### Three Billions

Minister Sibon Guy also told the press yesterday that the National Service outside the armed forces program is costing the government the sum of 3 billion FMG [Malagasy Francs] per year. Some people think that this is a lot. But that is the price of growth. The allocation of 12,500 FMG per month for SN will not be increased even in spite of the current rise in the cost of living. The minister was quite categorical on that: "As the Boky Mena said, these youngsters are going to have to repay the people in this fashion for the sacrifice the people are making for them during their long years of training!"

Another reason given by the minister was that these youngsters will also have to learn "to tighten their belts." He even added that the SN people are not drawing any higher pay than the regular draftees (under the traditional National Service) who only get 3,000 FMG per month.

As to the existence of a certain "break" which is supposed to be bad for pursuing a course of higher education as far as the SN people are concerned, the minister was likewise quite categorical: "No, there is no break. On the contrary, the young people thus can immediately apply what they learned and they will preserve a certain state of mind. This is even beneficial for them because they thus come into contact with reality."

Finally, as in the past, consideration will be given to the surplus of the college students and the needs of each faritany in terms of SN assignees. It goes without saying that, if the requirements at Antsir-anana are greater than the number of students available and if there is a surplus at Toamasina, then "the rest will be shipped" to Antsirananana. Although no provision has as yet been made for ide logical indoctrination, it can be given in the future program.

### Some Questions

Among the questions brought up yesterday was the procedure for handling SN people in case of sickness. "They will have the same advantages as civil servants in that connection." Many cases have already come up and we now know what to expect in the future.

A defense minister who holds a press conference is bound to be asked some questions directly affecting his ministry. That was true yesterday also. In view of the importance of a mission such as the mission

of defending national security, a journalist asked the minister how, in spite of the importance of his primary mission, he still manages to find time to concern himself with SN.

The minister has a certain sense of humor and his answer was no less direct: "Did you find some imperfections here or there to justify your question?" But then the minister became serious: "We accepted the mission assigned to us just like the mission of agricultural production in the army. But this does not mean that we lose sight of our primary mission which is national defense.

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CSO: 4400

ARMED FORCES PROVISION MANAKARA

Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 21 Dec 79 p 5

[Text] A delegation from the revolutionary government, made up of CSR [Supreme Revolutionary Council] member Marson Max, as well as interior minister Ampy Portos Augustin, information minister Georges Ruphin, and Capt M. Boangy, attached to the office of the president of the republic, was in Manakara on Wednesday morning.

Mr Marson Max emphasized that Manakara is a city which belongs to all the Malagasy people and that Manakara has for a long time been synonymous with national unity; that reputation must be safeguarded in order not to yield to the machinations of the tribalists. On another subject, CSR Marson Max indicated that military trucks will hereafter bring in the supplies needed by this eastern portion of Madagascar.

Minister Ampy Portos then explained Circular 92, dated 28 February 1978, as well as the bylaws governing AREMA [Vanguard of the Malagasy Revolution] to the AREMA militants. Since he is in charge of decentralized collectivities, minister Ampy Portos did not fail to detail certain important points while emphasizing the sovereign character of the people and the structures instituted in order to assure the country's development.

Concerning AREMA in particular, the interior minister emphasized the vanguard role which it has. This role must be specifically expressed in facts through the determination always to work in order to assure the triumph of the ideas in the "Livre Rouge." This determination must be paralleled by mutual understanding and the courage to engage in self-criticism. But, to prevent any deviation, it is a good idea to conform to the watchwords coming from secretary-general Didier Ratsiraka.

Along this line, we must also mention the importance of the ideological seminars and idea exchanges. Mr. Ampy Portos urged the militants, each month, to send a group activities report to national headquarters. Addressing the elected officials, Mr. Ampy Portos was quite blunt: the directives come from the AREMA group and not from the elected officials.

Thus the elected officials must obey the decisions and this is precisely why the power of replacing the elected AREMA representatives is held only by the political bureau--only in case some of the elected representatives fail in their duties.

Minister Georges Ruphin, who is in charge of ideology, concentrated his remarks on the class struggle and the irreversible character of our revolution. "We would be defiling the memory of those who spilled their blood," he said, "if the country were to lose ground." The AREMA militants have the duty to prevent any backsliding; that duty consists in fighting against the reactionaries and the enemies of the revolution who are depredators and pillagers and who must be neutralized. AREMA must pursue the class struggle in order to dislodge certain enemies who perhaps hide in the revolutionary groupings in order to seek cover. Nothing can be done without the people--Georges Ruphin continued--and a motivated people knows which way to go.

He concluded by recalling that president Didier Ratsiraka spares no effort to assure prosperity for the Malagasy people; as proof he mentioned the soviet tractors and the army trucks to be used in bringing in food.

This revolutionary delegation turned over the amount of 1 million FMG to the Manakara precooperative and also benefited from this visit to discuss the various public utilities in the city.

5058

CSO: 4400



CHRISTIAN PEACE CONFERENCE MEETING

Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 21 Dec 79 pp 1,5

[Text] The meeting of the committee of the Pan-African Christian Conference on Peace was held at Antananarivo. The activities, which were carried out at Maibahoaka Ivato, were attended by several foreign delegations who had come from Tanzania, Mozambique, Mauritius, Zaire, Sierra Leone, and Madagascar. Pastor Andriamanjato Richard was elected chairman of the conference and reviewed the activities of this session in Antananarivo.

"The result can be summarized as follows," declared CSR [Supreme Revolutionary Council] member Andriamanjato Richard, "a general analysis was prepared regarding the situation in Africa and also in the Indian Ocean. I would in particular like to stress the positive contribution from the Malagasy revolution through the president of the RDM [Democratic Republic of Madagascar], the arrival of a delegation of the international peace conference, and also a delegation for the Pan-African conference on peace."

During the discussions and talks--he said--it was realized that there was no incompatibility between religion and the kind of socialism that has been established in these countries.

This greatly impressed the delegates who were present at this session.

During the opening ceremony of this conference CSR member Justin Rakotonirainy talked about the various positive aspects between the Christians and the revolution in Madagascar.

The general situation in Africa, the problems of refugees in Africa, South Africa, Namibia, and Rhodesia were also discussed during this meeting.

5058

CSO: 4400

# ACTIVITY OF CHRISTIAN PEACE CONFERENCE REPORTED

Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 15 Dec 79 pp 1,2

[Text] "There is no incompatibility between religion and revolution"-- it was declared unanimously upon the opening of the session of the Christian Peace Conference.

"It is not out of courtesy that we receive this session of Christian Peace Conference of Africa for Peace and that we welcome the delegates who have come here to take part in it; we are doing this for a much more fundamental reason. The Malagasy revolution is not incompatible with religion because both of them fight for peace." These remarks were made yesterday morning by CSR [Supreme Revolutionary Council] member Justin Rakotonirainy who represented the revolutionary government during the opening ceremony for the first session of the continuation committee of the Christian Conference of Africa for Peace.

CSR Justin Rakotonirainy pointed out, in the light of this truth, that this can be verified both in the constitution and the laws as well as the institutions and everyday practice. Freedom of conscience is recognized and guaranteed in the RDM [Democratic Republic of Madagascar] and religion is considered an element which runs in the same direction as the revolution--he said. But this liberty is obviously regulated so that religion will not become an obstacle to the fundamental option of the Malagasy people: the Malagasy revolution. This is why a control system was instituted in collaboration with the religious authorities--he noted in addressing an audience always attentive to anything that may touch on this issue.

Earlier, CSR member Justin Rakotonirainy welcomed the delegates invited to attend this session and extended to them the brotherly greetings of the revolutionary government. After that he expressed his happiness over the fact that the Christian Peace Conference and the RDM share the same concern for peace and are in favor of the peaceful settlement of all conflicts. He condemned war with the same energy. The similarity of views between the CCP [Christian Peace Conference] and the

RDM also extends to a common position in favor of disarmament, national liberation, and the establishment of a new international economic order, plus agreement on turning the Indian Ocean into a peace zone.

His Excellency Msgr Karol Toth, chairman of the CCP, emphasized the honor of having been received the evening before by President Didier Ratsiraka in person, in company with some other members of the CCP, and he expressed his joy over the fact that there is no incompatibility between religion and the Malagasy socialist revolution.

Earlier, Pastor Richard Andriamanjato--who is the president of the Christian Peace Conference, during this opening ceremony summarized the origin of this African section which was established 2 years ago, to the day, at Freetown in Sierra Leone, during the general constituent assembly which laid the theological foundations of the movement and spelled out the significance of the framework of its program for Africa, along with its first activities, prior to this first session of the continuation committee which is now being hosted by the Malagasy capital.

With his well-known eloquence, Pastor Richard Andriamanjato stressed at this point that the CCP is pleased to see the president of the RDM present at this opening ceremony.

He addressed greetings from the Malagasy Committee to the delegates and hailed the work of the CCP, a movement which rallies all Christians committed to the construction of a better world, a world of peace.

The opening ceremony was also marked by religious services celebrated by Pasteur Richard Andriamanjato.

In addition to the foreign delegates, we noted the presence of CSR member Ratsifehera Arsene and Pastor Zakariasy Albert, vice-president of the ANP [National Popular Assembly].

The work of this first session of the continuation committee of the CCP will be continued until Monday, 17 December.

5058

CSO: 4400

BRIEFS

USSR TRAINING AGREEMENT--A contract for the establishment of a training center for agricultural equipment mechanics was signed last Tuesday at the Ministry of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform between the RDM [Democratic Republic of Madagascar] and the USSR. This center will be established at Antsirabe. Its mission will be to provide training for maintenance personnel who will work on Soviet tractors purchased recently in the Soviet Union. It is recalled that, during his official visit to the USSR, President Didier Ratsiraka placed an order for 1,000 tractors which the revolution counts on in winning the rice battle. The Soviet Union donated another 200 units on top of that. The photo shows Minister Simon Pierre and the commercial attache of the USSR embassy, Mr Boris Pavlov, signing the document in the presence of His Excellency Aleksandr Alekseyev, USSR ambassador. As we can see, bilateral cooperation between the RDM and the Soviet Union is becoming more and more diversified. [Text] [Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 20 Dec 79 p 1] 5058

CSO: 4400

STUDENT UNREST, FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES MAY UNDERMINE GOVERNMENT

Paris LE MONDE in French 22 Dec 79 p 4

[Article signed P.B.: "Student Unrest Adds to Serious Economic and Financial Difficulties"]

[Text] Dakar--In spite of the efforts made by Malian authorities to minimize the events which are now taking place in Bamako, the information reaching Dakar is a cause of alarm for the regime of Gen Moussa Traore [as published]. Student unrest, which has been widespread for several years, has reached unprecedented proportions during the past few weeks, thus gaining a political dimension beyond its corporatist motivations.

Many personalities who had served under the former regime of Modibo Keita and who, therefore, are still deprived of their political rights (for instance the writer Seydou Badian Kouyate, now exiled in Dakar) are giving increasingly open support to the contestants.

The lot of small farmers is still less enviable than that of students. Because of drought and an economic policy undermined both by dirigism and by corruption, the 1980 harvest is expected to be, once again, catastrophic: cereal shortage in excess of 250,000 tons, marketable peanut production of scarcely 40,000 tons, compared with 250,000 at the end of the colonial era, less than 30,000 tons of cottonseed as against 70,000 in 1977.

Faced with such serious economic and financial difficulties and with growing social unrest, the government is increasingly reduced to appealing to foreign countries, France in particular, and to displaying its strength. Thus, on 17 December, strikers violently clashed against the police force.

9294

CSO: 4400

MALI

BRIEFS

FISCAL POLICE--Bamako, 8--A fiscal police responsible for the orderly progress of the agricultural products marketing campaign was established in Mali. President Moussa Traore, in his year-end message to the nation, stressed that the food situation in the country was precarious and announced that he had appealed for international food assistance. He also issued a warning to some businessmen about the fact that "they want to acquire wealth at all costs." [Text] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 9 Jan 80 p 8]

CSO: 4401



BRIEFS

POLITICAL PRISONERS--The Togolese Movement for Democracy (MTD), which opposes President Eyadema's regime, affirmed in a communique published in Paris that "hundreds and hundreds of political prisoners are rotting in Togolese jails." This communique followed the Togolese Government's announcement of the release of 34 political prisoners. [Text] [Paris LE MONDE in French 16 Jan 80 p 8]

CSO: 4400

## VISIT OF SOVIET VICE MINISTER REPORTED

Kinshasa ELIMA in French 12 Dec 79 p 7

[Text] The Soviet delegation led by the vice minister of the Merchant Marine, which came to Zaire in connection with the negotiations of the Soviet-Zairean Joint Commission on Maritime Transportation, went to Lower Zaire on Sunday 9 December 1979. The Soviet guests visited Matadi, the national port. They took advantage of the visit to go aboard one of the modern vessels of the Zairean Shipping Company, the MV Kisangani. The Soviet delegation had an opportunity to see the worksite where the huge bridge will be built that is to span the Zaire River at Matadi, before they toured the port city's housing development.

On Monday 10 December the members of the Soviet delegation crossed the river to Inga, where they admired the splendid Inga Hydro-electric Dam. At the end of the visit the Soviet vice minister of the Merchant Marine, on behalf of his delegation, expressed his emotions and his admiration for this extraordinary accomplishment of the Zairean people. The visit, which lasted over an hour, ended with a cocktail party given given by the leaders present in Inga. The Soviet guests returned to Kinshasa Monday evening.

It should be pointed out that the Soviet delegation, which included seven members, was accompanied on the Zairean side by the ambassador from Zaire to Moscow, the regional director of Lower Zaire, representing the region commissioner, who was absent, the general managing director [illegible word] of the CME [Zairean Shipping Company], the members of the delegation from the Department of Foreign Affairs and the government chief of protocol for the Lower Zaire region.

8946

CSO: 4400

## REPORT ON RECENT ACTIVITIES IN ZAIRE

## ONATRA Police

Kinshasa ELIMA in French 24-25 Nov 79 p 2

[Text] The police of ONATRA [National Transportation Office] have a very important role to play in the area of river, lake, and rail transportation. In fact it is they whose heavy responsibility it is to look after the security of the property of ONATRA, the SNCZ [Zairian National Rail Company], western region, as well as that of their clientele. The slightest failure on their part automatically entails disastrous consequences detrimental to ONATRA which, in most cases, finds itself compelled to indemnify injured clients.

Unfortunately, and it can indeed be said, this police force has recently become a shadow of itself. Most of its members are only villainous pilferers of goods on barges and in parked railroad cars, and in many other depots. There is a host of evidence and no one can confute it.

Several months ago, a group of policemen had charged some heads of ONATRA's medical administration with improper use of ambulances intended to transport sick personnel. Following this accusation, the decision was made that these ambulances would be left permanently with the guard house. Consequently, all those needing one would go to the officer on duty. Less than 3 months ago, one of these ambulances was caught by the mobile brigade of the GDN [expansion unknown]. Because some policemen, all guard chauffeurs, were using them every night to perpetrate numerous thefts at the public port, naval shipyard, and at railroad facilities of the SNCZ in Limete. This time, they had stolen four refrigerating compressors from Ndolo's naval shipyard.

Several days later, another group of policemen stationed at the Kin-East train station, with the help of a truck, stole a shipment of sugar after unsealing the railroad car. They were also taken by members of the mobile brigade while discussing the price with their client. As recently as the beginning of this month, three officers of this corps were dismissed for similar breaches. Again, on the night of 9 November, five guards stole 300 sacks of coffee worth 14,000 zaires and sold them to traffickers. The media, written as well as verbal, repeated the story.

At the rate things are going, the director of this corps could find himself left with approximately 20 or so members for all of ONATRA's regions and bureaus. This constitutes no more or no less than a "derogation of duty" of this police force vis-a-vis its responsibilities.

#### Marble Production

Kinshasa ELIMA in French 29 Nov 79 pp 1, 7

[Text] Mr Aureliano Galeazzo, the firm's managing director, informed the press that the Italian construction and marble-works enterprise of Zaire, "ITENCO MARBREZA," will soon have a new line of production worth a total of \$250,000. As a result, the enterprise is, in its reorganization and expansion program, in the process of establishing a series of projects. New hangars, with a surface area totaling 1,500 square meters, have already been built. With regard to the new line of production itself, Mr Galeazzo indicated that the machines ordered in Italy are already at the transit handlers. Assembling these machines could occur during the current month of December. These machines, valued at a total of \$250,000, were financed he said by the direct assistance of the associates. In conjunction with this, the firm is going to equip its quarries with heavy machinery which is already in lower Zaire (at Kinshasa). The entry of the new machines into operational phase, the managing director also said, will make it possible for the company to mass produce flagstones, tiles, and floor and wall coverings, i.e., to increase its production. The new line of production, the execution phase of which will go into operation in the first 2 months of 1980, will consist of a large deck saw, to make tiles, for floor and wall surfaces, and an automatic polishing chain and a chassis set with diamonds to make large slabs for tombs, tables, stair steps and rises.

Production capacity after the machines' entry into operation could rise to 250 square meters of finished products a day, whereas current production is approximately 80 to 100 square meters a day.

It should be mentioned that the equipment received recently by the enterprise constitutes a first shipment of machines that the enterprise intends to import to carry out its schedule of investments in Zaire.

Following the first investment tranche, the enterprise will be ready to stabilize the sale prices of its products. It could also reduce prices during the first 6 months of 1980. It should also be noted that the prices of tombs and tombstones will already undergo a noticeable 10 to 15 percent reduction beginning next 1 December, as a result of certain procedures that have made more efficient production possible.

The Italian construction enterprise has contributed extensively to the country's development. It is under these auspices that it has participated in the construction of the Palace of the People, the repair and resurfacing of the floor in the Parliament, the resurfacing of the facade, the pillars of the premises of SOZACOM [Zairian Company for the Marketing of Ores], the floor surfacing of the CCIZ [Zairian Chamber of Commerce and Industry],

floor and wall facings in the mint, the Bank of Kinshasa at Boma (Lower Zaire), the floor covering of the cathedral of Kisantu in Lower Zaire and of the officers' club at the N'Djili airport, etc.

Speaking of his firm's export products, Mr Galeazzo stressed that this project was a major concern of the heads of the enterprise and will take top priority in its business policies in 1980. In addition he indicated that: already contacts had been made with authorities of the Central African Republic and the People's Republic of the Congo.

The project will be implemented, he said in substance, with the new machines' production.

#### Canadian Aid

Kinshasa ELIMA in French 2-3 Dec 79 pp 1, 11

[Text] Canada will soon provide the Republic of Zaire with nutritional assistance principally in the form of dried fish and canned sardines worth Can\$ 2.9 million. This is what has resulted from a special agreement between Canada and Zaire signed Saturday at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

At the ceremony, which took place in the Green Room of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Canadian Government was represented by Mme Renee Daignault, charge d'affaires for international affairs from Canada to Zaire, and Zaire's Executive Cabinet by citizen Kaponda Muene Ndambu, deputy minister of National Economy and Industry.

#### Soviet-Zairian Relations

Kinshasa ELIMA in French 2-3 Dec 79 p 13

[Text] In the House of Goodwill toward People of Foreign Countries in Moscow, a solemn meeting of the representatives of the Soviet capital's public opinion took place to commemorate Zaire's national holiday: the 14th anniversary of the second republic.

Citizen Kabeza Mukeba, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary from the Republic of Zaire to the USSR and the personnel of the Zairian Embassy attended the meeting. Natalia Bytchenkova, the collaborator of the USSR Academy of Sciences' African Institute, took the floor to evoke the history of the Zairian people's struggle against colonialists for independence, as well as the present situation of this African state and Soviet-Zairian friendly relations.

The audience warmly welcomed the contribution of citizen Kabeza Mukeba, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary from the Republic of Zaire to the USSR, who talked about the development of relations between the USSR and Zaire.

## MOBUTU PLAN DISCUSSED

## Pierre Davister's Opinion

Brussels SPECIAL in French 6 Dec 79 p 15

[Text] You may believe it or not, but--as we know--Gen Mobutu will not soon forget the role played by Belgium in the success of the Mobutu Plan. Nothing had yet been won, in fact, when on last 28 November Mr Simonet described with unusual brilliance the slow progress of the common desire of Zaire's friends for that country to experience the economic and financial revival it deserves, after accepting and applying all the conditions that had been imposed upon it for receiving the billions indispensable to its happy future. Nothing had yet been won, but Mobutu had become credible again, a valuable full-partner representative, the possessor of enough authority for each of the representatives concerned in his "plan" to know, with full knowledge of the facts, that this plan was the imperative obligation for the good conscience of those very people who, having been shown to be tough and inflexible, had been obeyed. Always arrogant, often intransigent, Mobutu in fact had the wisdom to put love for the people before his own pride, and today he has been largely compensated. Not only has the fight been won for Zaire, but that country is almost begging for the constraints that some had wanted to impose upon it, and is thus emphasizing its desire, not just to benefit from a simple revival, but also to consider it a genuine and definite springboard. In other words, Mobutu is expressing through the votes of his most qualified representatives the recognition that is essential vis-a-vis multinational aid geared to Zaire's immediate needs, but at the same time he wants it known that the climate in which such aid has operated is an acceptable and almost unique climate, because Belgium has not lent its good offices to a commendable cooperation, but has contributed generously, even very generously, to that cooperation. Of course, none of the talks was really easy and no one would dare affirm that everything was "looking great," but--and this is the main thing--nothing was agreed to reluctantly, in a gingerly fashion or because it had to be. The desire to save Zaire was always unanimous, even if the means to do it were sometimes divergent or simply different.

It will be tempting, of course, to establish a hierarchy of generosity by underlining who gave the most, who gave the least. Setting up such a scale would be a mistake in our opinion, although it is obvious that countries with great resources were for the most part more niggardly than ours at the precise moment when it was necessary to go from intentions to action. Let it



be sufficient to say that Belgium is among the top few and that this delights us, for we have always demanded and hoped for it.

We are not going back over the reasons that militated for that state of affairs. Sometimes appreciated, sometimes discredited, all of our editorials have always had the same objective: to emphasize what a great nation Zaire is and how many of its troubles may be only temporary insofar as, understanding our role, we support it adequately, as it is supporting itself. Now, Zaire has more than lived up to the expectations of certain hesitant powers fearful of going against public opinion in their own countries by too visibly helping a country that was supposed to be on the edge of the abyss or on the eve of a change of regime. It has proved, in fact, that it was not that "lesser evil" reluctantly accepted to avoid chaos, but on the contrary was a stabilizing pole in a Central Africa extremely shaken by the crimes of Bokassa, the massacres by Amin Dada and the difficulties of finding peaceful solutions in Zimbabwe, where England has just had its point of view accepted at last. A disturbed Zaire in that region of the world had not failed to satisfy those very people who, as incorrigible troublemakers, were rejoicing over the financial difficulties with which Mobutu was struggling and, when necessary, did not hesitate to aggravate those difficulties, which afterwards enabled them to talk about the regime's instability. We recognize that Gen Mobutu needed a great deal of poise and courage not to yield then to discouragement, for he was constantly being asked on the one hand for proofs of good will, while on the other hand they did not hesitate to cast doubt on that good will by spreading false rumors, the most recent of which border on pure and simple defamation. That someone should claim, indeed, that a chief of state is afflicted with cancer in order to discredit him more on the eve of a "summit" where his country's economic revival is to be determined, is such a base act that it is hard to believe it can be part of a concerted plan and not come simply from minds unbalanced enough to believe in the daytime what they dream at night, that is to say what they permanently hope for in any case.

Alarming but true: while it has been virtually saved by the "Mobutu Plan," people are still waiting for the chance to "trip Zaire up," and moreover Mr Simonet courageously explained this strange phenomenon where we see a largely understanding Belgium forced constantly to explain to a certain nostalgic and small-minded Belgium the why and the how of a logical cooperation. Logical and fruitful for us, our Foreign Affairs Minister emphasized, for, as we have repeated here continually for several years, in aiding Zaire, Belgium is serving its own interests.

It would be false, moreover, to claim that this first truth has not gone its own sweet way, and to see with what general satisfaction the aid to Zaire has been welcomed by the Belgian press is to understand that those who are wrong may not yet have decided to admit it but--who knows--may have already decided to keep quiet.

No doubt their silence still stems from expectation and reluctance, for they say that now that Mobutu is both a winner and rich, is he not going to go back to his old mistakes and make a little money on the side?

In reality, to say such things is not to know the Zairean chief of state very well, for Gen Mobutu has suffered more than he has ever dared to admit from the catastrophic situation into which his country was plunged, and the means given to him only precipitate his haste to show his aptitude for good management at last, when circumstances are favorable and the economic climate is not completely hostile to him.

Of course, you don't need magic to claim that the stonemason is seen at the foot of the wall, and to express an enormous amount of this kind of twaddle. Mobutu is aware of this kind of invisible camera pointed at his every act, but today he is also and especially aware of the identity of his true friends. There are undoubtedly not very many of them, but they are of unequalled quality, with Belgium--I am not afraid to say--at the head of the list. Mobutu will certainly want to keep those friends by not disappointing them at all, but on the contrary showing them that their confidence, which was hard to get the to admit, was well placed and that their billions--since billions there are--in no danger of being compromised or lost. We believe it.

#### Background of Plan

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[Article by Francis Monheim: "Brussels 3 in Favor of the Mobutu Plan"]

[Text] Presided over by Belgium, the countries friendly to Zaire and the international organizations have decided to take on the first phase of the Mobutu Plan. Exceeding all expectations. Belgium having fulfilled its mandate, the initiative belongs to the World Bank.

It is Friday at 1800. Brussels is already plunged into its Sunday torpor.

Mrs Thatcher's affections in the European Council, and then the fog, kept our Foreign Affairs Minister, Henri Simonet, in Dublin.

At the Zaire embassy on the rue Marie de Bougogne, Nguza Karl-I-Bond, draws political conclusions from the Third Brussels Conference on Zaire, which ended the day before. Beside the Zairean state commissioner for Foreign Affairs, a visibly happy man, is his ambassador, Inonga Lokongo l'Ome.

Nguza Karl-I-Bond, relaxed and smiling as usual, makes no secret of his enthusiasm. "This conference was a success all along the line. First because we obtained more important aid from the friendly countries than we had hoped for. Then--and especially--because those countries recognized the immense efforts Zaire has been making for long months to emerge from the enormous difficulties it has been facing. As for my country's relations with Belgium, they are excellent. No doubt for sentimental reasons: Belgians and Zaireans like living together very much. But there are also two objective bonds between our two countries: the Belgians know Zaire better than the others, on the economic and technical level as well as on the social level."

The concrete results of the conference hang on several figures: the participants were engaged in intervening in Zaire's balance of payments to a limit of \$128,000,000 for 1979 and \$206,000,000 for 1980. The total: \$334,000,000, or approximately 10,000,000,000 Belgian francs.

"Of course," as the State Commissioner for Planning, Bokana w'Ondangela, explained, "this balance of payments deficit will be much higher. For 1980 it may be evaluated at \$422,000,000. But, to the aid obtained at this third conference must be added the sums promised by the International Monetary Fund and other countries friendly to Zaire, such as Saudi Arabia and Abou-Dhabi. Moreover, we have resolved that we ourselves will put on a gigantic effort to fill the gap."

### Zaire's Misfortunes

The conference that has just ended in Brussels is placed in a very precise context. After experiencing a period of growing prosperity from 1970 to 1974, the Zairean economy collapsed. Because the price of copper on the world markets fell by 70 percent, while the price of fuel quintupled. Because the price of equipment goods Zaire needs doubled in less than five years. Because--in the opinion of the president of the Republic himself--the Zaireanization policy was a failure. Because Zaire supported as much as it was able the Angolan nationalists' fight for liberation. Because the result of the Angolan war was interruption of the Benguela-Lobito line, by which Zaire was exporting most of its mining production. Because in Zaire itself negligence and abuses made their appearance in all the public affairs sectors, and, more precisely, in the financial management sector; did not President Mobutu, exactly two years ago, denounce the various symptoms of what he called "the Zairean sickness?" To all of this must be added the invasions of Western Shaba in April 1977 and May 1978 by rebels from Angola, invasions that paralyzed mining production for a while, the second of which took place in Kolwezi under tragic circumstances that are well known.

But President Mobutu is not a man to let things get him down, and when he was in Brussels in June 1977 he proposed to the Belgian government that a plan be set up for the economic and financial revival of Zaire. The international organizations and the countries friendly to Zaire would be solicited to that effect, Belgian being in charge of coordinating the initiatives and the aid. On behalf of the government, Foreign Affairs Minister Henri Simonet accepted that suggestion. Experts and diplomats went to work to draw up the "Mobutu Plan."

### After Kolwezi--Brussels I

They had to wait a year before a first international meeting took place in Brussels--on 13 and 14 June 1978--shortly after the bloody events in Kolwezi. Approximately 5,000,000,000 francs in emergency aid was granted to Zaire--it consisted primarily of food products, medicines and replacement parts. In addition, the participants attempted to define the framework, the schedule and the conditions of a revival of the Zairean economy. That first conference also invited Zaire to negotiate a financial stabilization plan with the International Monetary Fund and to take Draconian measures in the public finance area.

This is precisely what Zaire did, notably by agreeing to the appointment by the IMF [International Monetary Fund] of a principal manager for the Bank of Zaire (Mr Blumenthal), by reorganizing its administration and by instituting a policy of strict financial austerity.

On 9 and 10 November of last year a second conference took place in Brussels, to evaluate these efforts and outline the financial contributions Zaire would need over the middle term. The Zairean delegation also told of the liberalization measures that had been undertaken, on President Mobutu's initiative, in the political area.

#### The Zaire-IMF Accord

In August of this year a decisive step was taken: President Mobutu sent the IMF a "letter of intention" in which he reported what measures had been taken to stabilize the public finances, reduce the budgetary deficit, devalue the Zairean currency to decrease the difference between its official rate and its unofficial rate, seek a respreading of its foreign debt and increase its mining production (copper and cobalt).

The IMF authorities immediately followed up the letter by granting to Zaire on 27 August a line of credit of 118,000,000 Dts (a "special redemption right" is worth \$1.3, and the dollar is worth a little less than 40 Belgian francs; the amount granted by the IMF may be evaluated as the equivalent of approximately 6,000,000,000 of our francs).

All the conditions had thus been met for a third conference to take place in Brussels, during which the friendly countries and the international organizations would make definite commitments this time.

It appeared, however, that a certain reluctance was persisting, in the American administration as well as in Wall Street circles. For this reason, early in September President Mobutu himself went to the United States (see our editorial of 20 September 1979). The Zairean chief of state met there with President Carter and his principal associates, as well as the principal American bankers. That visit ended in a success that the press--American and European--took unanimous pleasure in emphasizing.

Before returning to Kinshasa President Mobutu stopped briefly in Brussels (our article of 27 September, page 24), where he met with the new Belgian prime minister, Wilfried Martens, and where he was able to settle with Henri Simonet the final provision for the "Brussels 3" conference.

#### Simonet's Plea

The conference was held last week and was presided over--as were the preceding two--by our permanent representative to the United Nations, Andre Ernemann.

At the inaugural session our minister of Foreign Affairs stressed three main facts:



1. The persevering action, within the framework of the Mobutu Plan, of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
2. The considerable effort made by Zaire in the field of its financial management, the reorganization of its mining industry, the expansion of its agriculture and increased exports.
3. The fact that since Belgium had fulfilled its mandate by organizing this third conference, it is now up to the World Bank, with Zaire, to go on with putting the Mobutu Plan in place.

On behalf of the Zairean delegation, Commissioner of State Nguza Karl-I-Bone, for his part, had especially warm words for Belgium, its government and in particular its minister of Foreign Affairs.

He recalled that Zaire was proud to be able to announce that it had kept all of its commitments on the three points evoked at the second Brussels conference: measures aimed at straightening out the financial management, the concluding of a stabilization agreement with the IMF, preparation of a multi-annual investment program with the cooperation of the World Bank.

#### And Karl-I-Bond's Plea

Nguza Karl-I-Bond then made this basic statement: "This immense effort, as commendable as it is, was in danger of being reduced to nothing if it has not been integrated into an overall approach aimed chiefly at modifying the reception infrastructure in which it was destined to evolve. So it was advisable to match and improve upon the economic and financial context of a series of political measures likely to enrich it and serve it as viable support."

And he went on to cite: the general amnesty law that enabled tens of thousands of refugees from Angola and Uganda to resettle in Zaire; the decentralization of the executive branch of the government; the control exercised over that branch by the people's commissioners (elected deputies); the regional decentralization, especially in economic and financial matters; the reorganization of the army (new Zairean units were able to bring relief to Shaba for the inter-African forces); the reconciliation with Angola--with President Neto as well as with his successor, President dos Passos--; the good neighbor policy and regular cooperation with Zambia and Tanzania.

Finally we quote the conclusion of Nguza Karl-I-Bond's speech, in which he described Zaire as "a partner that is now credible in all respects. The Zaire that presents itself to you today is a country that has justly and honestly honored its contract vis-a-vis its people and its friends. Without prejudging the final results of this conference, I should like to tell you that my country has faith in international solidarity; that it bases many hopes on this conference; that at this moment when we are engaging in this dialog, 8,000 km from this room 26,000,000 Zaireans have their eyes turned toward Brussels."

## From Pessimism to Hope

The Brussels Conference lasted two days. The work went on very quietly. The evening of the first day the corridor rumors allowed a certain pessimism to show through. But the next it was apparent that the results would exceed all expectations. The Zairean delegation, of course, spared no effort to obtain that change of direction.

Commissioners of State Karl-I-Bond and Bokana, Governor Emony and Ambassador Inonga were able to depend, in this case, on the testimony of Mamadou Toure (Senegal) and Aki Batuk (Turkey), who occupy respectively the offices of principal manager of the Bank of Zaire (on behalf of the IMF) and principal expenditures officer of the Zairean Public Finance Department (on behalf of the UNDP (United Nations Development Program)).

As anticipated, Zaire found its best advocates among the Belgian delegation, particularly in the person of Eugene Rittweger de Moor, our ambassador to Kinshasa, Alfred Cahen, general policy director in the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Mr Adam, who succeeded him as Mr Simonet's chief adviser, and Mr Maldague, our planning commissioner, and Alain Rens, who is also an adviser in the office of foreign affairs.

We also learned that the American delegation showed great confidence in the Mobutu Plan, as did the delegations from West Germany and the European Commission. On the other hand, the French delegation was more reserved, while the British refused to assume the commitments formerly made by the Labor government.

## Eloquent Figures

These varying attitudes are seen in the amounts pledged by the delegations, to be made available to Zaire to enable it to adjust its balance of payments for 1980. The approximate figures are as follows: \$33,000,000 for Belgium; \$45,000,000 for the FRG; \$28,000,000 for France; \$25,000,000 for the United States; \$38,000,000 for the EEC; the remaining \$40,000,000 to come from three countries whose contributions were relatively modest but satisfactory--Japan, Canada and Italy--from Italy [as published] (whose financial capabilities are very limited) and Great Britain (which went back on the commitments made earlier, as we said above).

We should note that these amounts are to be added to the bilateral or multilateral aid the various countries are regularly making available to Zaire. For this reason Belgium's \$33,000,000 (or a little over 1,000,000,000 Belgian francs) are to be in addition to the 4,600,000,000 [francs] written into the budget of our normal cooperation with Zaire for 1980.

## The Foreign Debt

The Brussels conference was not intended to reestablish the financial credit of Zaire, whose foreign debt is currently 4,500,000,000.



That reestablishment is also provided for--by the Mobutu Plan.

The comment has been made in Brussels that Zaire is a potentially wealthy country that has been hit very hard by the world crisis and by a load of other outside elements, that therefore needs temporary aid, but that gives promise, over a longer term, of a new prosperity.

For this reason Zaire is going to ask its creditors to review the schedule for repaying these debts.

That staggering of payments is to be done during the two meetings: the first will be held in Paris on 10 and 11 December and will include Zaire's public creditors; the second will take place in London in January and will include the private creditors.

#### The World Bank

It is only after that the Mobutu Plan will enter its main phase--stimulating investments in the four principal sectors decided upon by Zaire: transportation and communication media, mining production, manufacture and agriculture. This phase will be negotiated between Zaire and the World Bank. Beginning next February, the advisory group for Zaire which has been created within the World Bank will meet in Washington (or Paris). It is obvious that the stimulation will require very significant amounts and there is already talk of a first credit of \$1,000,000,000.

#### Zaire's Dignity

I should not like to conclude this article without mentioning the campaign of denigration organized as much by certain Parisian circles as by the "Zaire Committee" (Belgium) some days before the Brussels 3 Conference. According to those circles and that Committee, the Zairean army massacred 250 persons in the diamond region surrounding Mbuji-Mai.

The commissioner of state, Nguza Karl-I-Bond himself mentioned the rumors in his opening speech at Brussels 3.

"In all countries where law is not a facade," Karl-I-Bond said, "it is incumbent upon the accusers to prove their allegations. Zaire has been awaiting such proof--and with good reason--since the beginning of the defamatory campaign of which it is the object. It could have chosen the easy solution by letting time erase the memory of the incorrect accusations brought against it. It has chosen another solution, the dignified one. By demanding a Commission of Inquiry it is demonstrating that it has but a single desire: manifestation of the truth."

Immediately, the tone of the Brussels 3 Conference was set: candor, gravity, political realism.

The conference, we repeat, ended with a success whose magnitude no one would have dared to predict. And it was the Zaireans who gave Henri Simonet the

most applause when he stated that Belgium had discharged the mandate it had accepted quite willingly over two years ago.

Indeed, this conference was undoubtedly the most resounding and fruitful evidence of the collaboration between Zaire and Belgium.

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